

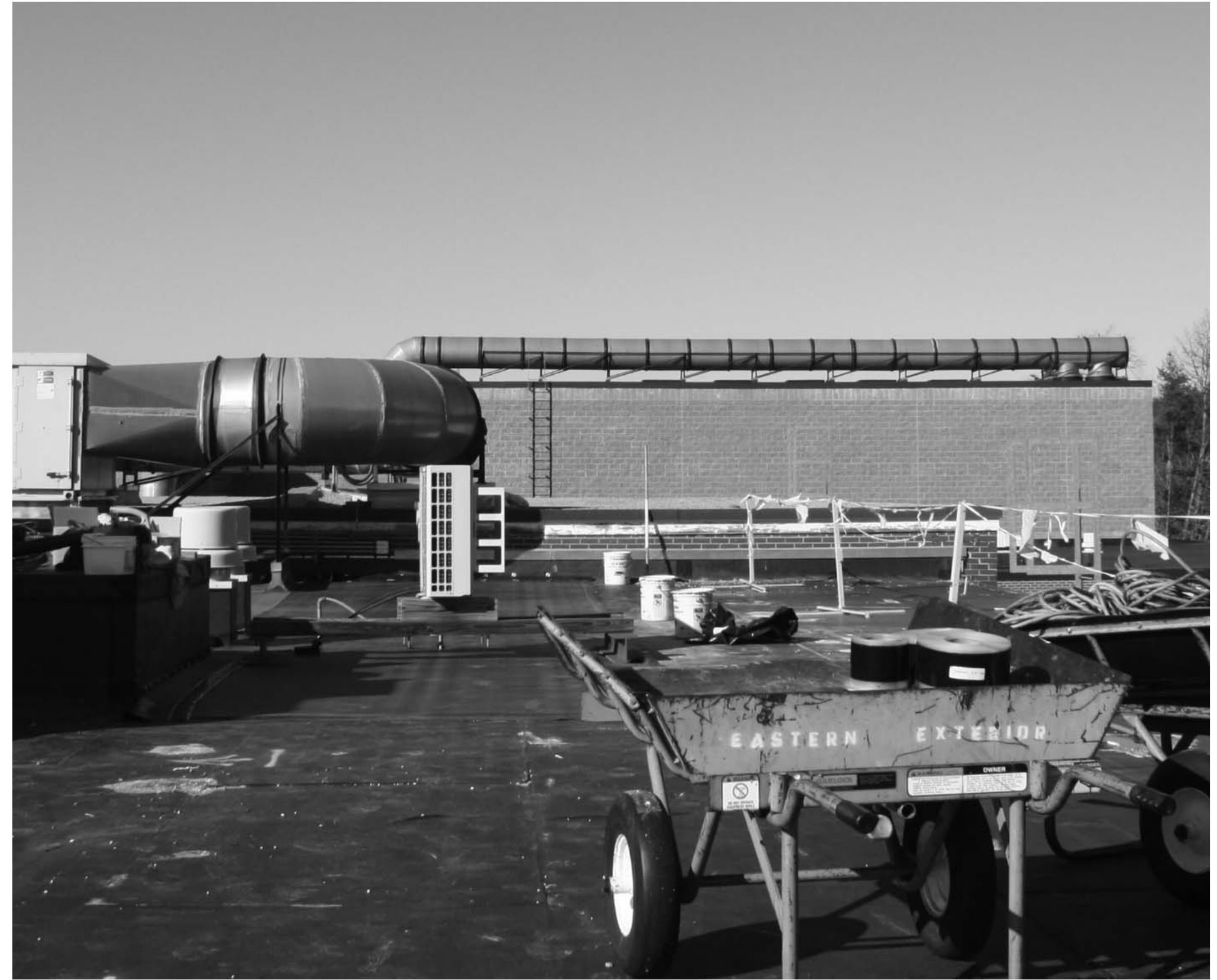
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THE

THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL 55 COE DRIVE DURHAM, NH 03824 VOLUME 29, ISSUE 2

Wednesday, December 9, 2009



“It was almost impossible to teach when they were working over my class room,” said third floor social studies teacher Brian Zottoli.

Fiddling on the Roof



Erik Frid
News Writer

Imagine trying to take a test—hard enough as it is. Now imagine taking a test while noises of hammering and screwing are unleashing a barrage upon your eardrums. For Oyster River High School Senior Victoria Hanson and her peers in Brendan Whalen’s pre-calculus class this was the case. This fall, at Oyster River High School, repairs were made to the roof and with it came the noise. “It was almost impossible to teach when they were working over my classroom,” said third floor social studies teacher Brian Zottoli.

Third floor teachers had the honor of being the first to experience the wrath of the construction. Zottoli explained that from time to time his room would vibrate or shake and on top of it he could see clouds of cigarette smoke. “It’s always interesting having to explain to a class why there’s

cigarette smoke coming from the roof,” said Zottoli. According to Oyster River Principal Laura Rogers this only occurred on the first or second day, but after district facilities manager, Randy Loring, went up and told them that there is no smoking on school grounds and there wasn’t an issue thereafter. “These guys don’t always work at schools,” said Rogers, “...they do the same work over grocery stores.” Rumors have swirled as to the reason for the work being done to the roof. These ranged from the construction of a statue of Rogers to repairs in order to avoid leaking. However, the true reason, according to district business administrator Blaine Cox, was that they were making roof repairs to damaged or defective insulation under the rubber roof membrane due to both a manufacturing defect and by foot traffic on the roof. Cox said that there is a sheet of rigid insulation board that has a paper type surface layer attached to the rigid insulation. The water proof rubber roof membrane is then adhered to

this paper face surface, but in some areas of the roof the paper type surface of the insulation became un-attached from the insulation. When this happened, there was a chance that the rubber membrane could have blown off the roof in a storm due to wind uplift. Many students, teachers, and even Oyster River Vice Principal Sara Wotton believed that the district sued and brought the construction company to court to get the repairs done. The truth is that the school didn’t sue anyone and the repairs being done are being paid for by taxpayer money.

Roof continued on pg. 2

Quote of the Issue:
“My dad called me a slut”
- Alyssa Johnson
...”Well he was probably right”
- Shauna Horsley
Overheards continued on pg. 14

Fiddling With the Roof *(continued from page 1)*



Erik Frid
News Writer

“The work does cost the taxpayers money as do most expenditures of the school district. However, this type of work is deemed a good investment of taxpayer funds as it protects and prolongs the investment already made by the taxpayers in constructing the facility,” said Cox. The project cost a total of \$231, 895 with the contractor’s bid costing \$185,995 and engineer costing \$45,900.

The repairs on the roof undoubtedly, disrupted classes and have been an overall, annoyance to the members of Oyster River High School. Although in the later stages teachers were forewarned as to when work was being done over their rooms many students and teachers were confused as to why the work wasn’t done during the summer when school was out of session. According to Cox this was a result of the project being two months behind schedule, “We have been working on this project for 9 months and although we had hoped to complete the work by early September, as these types [of] projects often go we are a couple months behind that target,” said Cox in an early November interview. The project officially ended (date). He said that



Workers on the roof.

there were many steps involved with making repairs to the roof. Including selecting a technical engineer which required school board approval, evaluating and determining what the issues were with the roof, this involved many months of test cuts to the rubber membrane, assembling plans and specifications to place the project out for bidding by contractors, and giving the bidders times to write up their proposals, submit them, evaluate them and select a contractor.

In comparison some feel the noise from the construction wasn’t as bad as other annoyances at Oyster River High School the mowing of the lawn during the school day can be an annoyance for some teachers. “What I find= even worse than the roof construction is when they cut the grass during the school day,” said third floor and social studies teacher Lou Mroz. According to Mroz the noise wasn’t that bad, but this is coming from a teacher who lived through the renovation of Oyster River in the early 2000s. So in retrospect the sound of screw drivers, dust falling from the ceiling and the room shaking from time to time is nothing compared to going to school literally in a construction zone. As English teacher Shauna Horsley said in the 2003 Oyster River Yearbook of the renovation, “The occasional blasting adds an element of excitement to all of my classes!”

WHERE IS
OPEN CAMPUS!?



Ben Belanger
News Writer

So... How come we dont have open campus yet? Brian Zottoli, ORHS Social Studies Teacher, is in charge of the students who are writing the proposal for open campus. “It’s a lot of work,” said Zottoli. The team of Student Senate members who are drafting the proposal are all but slacking, this is just a much tougher job than commonly believed. In order to get this initiative to pass with as few modifications as possible by administration, the senate has to work countless hours to draft a fully-legal document that has been checked by lawyers. Zottoli explained that literally every possible scenario has to be covered to prevent a loophole with the rule.

The Senate is basing this proposal off of other schools’ policies, such as Hanover, Portsmouth and Souhegan. These schools, according to Zottoli, have been helpful giving us some information that we need, but not as helpful with everything.

In terms of time, Zottoli says the Senate is getting pretty close to having a semi-final draft and says the chances of havin open campus by the end of first semester are about 60-70%.

Open campus isn’t quite yet a reality, but rest assured the ORHS Senate is hard at work to ensure that it is a possibility by the end of the year.

Field Dedication
Oyster River’s Own American Hero



Alex Buck
News Writer

The field was filled with the sounds of silence as the national anthem was sung with passion. The feeling of sadness engulfed the hearts of all those who came to remember one of Oyster Rivers most courageous patrons. As Navy Seals walked down the aisle with unflinching seriousness on their faces, memories of their fallen soldier flooded the minds of those who attended. The one who everyone was there for was undeniably an outstanding student, athlete, and soldier who came out of the Oyster River Community.

This Veterans Day for the Seacoast United was celebrated differently this year. Seacoast United commemorated field one at the newly constructed outdoor complex in Epping, NH to Nate Hardy. Nate Hardy is an Oyster River High School alumni who was a Navy Seal Chief Petty Of- ficer stationed in Iraq. Nate had the dream of being a Navy Seal as a young boy, working hard to reach his goal. He was tragically killed in action on February 4, 2008 while on a mission in Iraq. Those who the event attended consisted of family, friends, and members of both the Seacoast United and Oyster River community. “I was very pleased with the turnout,” said Seacoast United Executive Director, Paul Willis.



Photo Attributed by Seacoastonline

One by one Nate’s friends and family spoke about their memories of Nate. “We learned from Nate what it meant to be your brother’s keeper,” said Matt Renner, one of Nate’s old teammates. Renner who is a producer for the show “Deadliest Catch” remembers that Nate always had his back on the field. This aspect of Nate was present in all parts of his life. Other speakers included his coaches Chris Laberge and Paul Willis, his brother Ben, and his father Stephen. “Visions and Redemption,” were the two things that came to Stephen Hardy’s mind when thinking back on his son’s life. Those are two aspects that future players will experience while playing on Nate’s field. The dedication of his field was just as much about the future players that will make sacrifices and the ones that Nate gave. After the ceremony Paul Willis’s children presented the Hardy family with flowers and a framed picture of their son which was followed by a standing ovation.





Ben Belanger
News Writer

“Are you writing an article?” asked ORHS

Paraprofessional, Kate Nichols. “Make it worthy – he was a good one.”

On Saturday, November 7th, 2009, Charles (Chaz) Hewitt was found dead in his Seabrook apartment after a fire. It is suspected that a discarded cigarette is to blame for the blaze, as it started on the front porch which had been the designated smoking area of the home. Hewitt was 20 at the time, and graduated from Oyster River High School in 2007.

I never had the chance to meet Chaz, so the task of making this article “worthy” is easier said than done. After hearing so much and reading what seemed like thousands of stories about him, it feels almost like it would be impossible to make an article that effectively describes what Chaz meant to the people in his life.

“I have had a brother-like relationship with Chaz ever since I can remember... there is not enough time or words I can say to explain how much I loved him,” explained CJ Phetakoune, ORHS Graduate and one of Chaz’s best friends.

Phetakoune had some interesting times with Chaz and remembers when they would sit down and talk - forgetting life’s troubles for the moment. “There was this one time I told him that me and my girlfriend wanted to move somewhere far away just for a year or so,” said Phetakoune, “and he looked me right in the eyes and he said ‘I’m coming.’” Phetakoune then asked if Chaz really would move somewhere with just him and his girlfriend. Chaz responded “wherever you go, I’ll go.”

Ryan Keech, another of Hewitt’s friends describes a mutual feeling among Chaz’s friends. “One of the special things about Chaz was that whenever he was with you, he made you feel like there was nowhere else in the world he would rather be,” explained Keech. “Chaz was such a special person, everyone around him loved him full heartedly and he loved everyone, too. He didn’t judge



Charles P. Hewitt.

February 3, 1989 - November 7, 2009

anyone and accepted people for who they are. He was the best friend anyone could want.”

Blair Kelley was friends with Chaz in high school and got to know him very well. “He was an unbelievably funny kid, always messing around,” said Kelley. “Despite that, though, you could always have a serious conversation with him and he always seemed to care about what you had to say.”

One of Chaz’s best friends, Gary Clifford, described him as someone who was always smiling and seemingly always optimistic. “No matter what life dealt him he would be positive about it,” explained Clifford. Chaz also left a lasting impression on teachers and coaches that he met in his time at ORHS. “In his own way he would have changed the world,” said Nichols, girls’ JV basketball coach. Nichols had a unique opportunity to see

Hewitt most days, as he and CJ Phetakoune would come practice with her JV team every day for two years. “He was the #1 JV fan,” recalled Nichols. “In my mind this upcoming season is for Chaz.”

Although he didn’t have the easiest time in school, Chaz never let that get him down. “He was a very sincere person. He did not have the easiest time in my class, but he was always upfront about it,” said ORHS Spanish Teacher, Mary Beaton. “He was just a nice guy.” Friends and teachers described him as always cracking jokes and making people laugh.

Chaz had an easy-going personality and great sense of humor. Matt Pappas, an ORHS Social Studies Teacher, remembers this distinctly. “He had that uncanny ability to make anyone laugh ~ even in the most unhappy circumstances,” explained Pappas. “He always livened up the class... always telling jokes – always smiling. He’d never say anything inappropriate, but he’d crack the whole class up.”

ORHS English Teacher, Marjke Yatsevich has similar memories of Chaz. “I guess the first word that comes to mind [about Chaz] is goofy,” explained Yatsevich.

“He was a fun-loving person ... he didn’t seem to take himself too seriously and it had a way of disarming people which made them feel like they could laugh and enjoy



Hewitt (right) with Friend CJ Phetakoune

themselves, too.”

While reading memories of him on a facebook group, I noticed that Chaz seemed to have had a unique friendship with everybody he came in contact with Chaz and that he could not have left them at a worse time. As it often goes, everyone was left wishing for one more time to be with Chaz.

“I can assure you that he is at peace in a much better place,” said Phetakoune. “Everything happens for a reason, just sometimes we will never know.”

To share your memories...

or read others experiences with Chaz, there is a memorial group on Facebook that is open to be viewed. The group was created by Ryan Keech and is called “Remembering a son, a brother, a friend. RIP Charles Hewitt”.

There is also a donation box located in the ORHS office for Chaz’s mother, Mae Doyle. Any donation is acceptable and checks should be written out to Mae Doyle.





Erik Frid
News Writer

The Truth About UNH Admissions

Welcome to the black hole that is Durham, New Hampshire. Oyster River Students go to elementary school in either Madbury or Lee, they got to middle school and high school on the same street, and for 31 students from last years class they went to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) just a stones throw from Coe Drive, the home to Oyster River High School, Middle School, and SAU offices. 31 students was about 17% of the Class of 2009 that attended UNH.

Undoubtedly, a majority of college bound Oyster River Students apply to the college in their backyard and often it receives the label of “fallback school,” but now more than ever UNH is becoming both a sound academic and financial choice. According to Oyster River Guidance Counselor Heather Machanoff, UNH has gone from a “safety school” for parents to a competitive institution for their children. In the past 7 years UNH’s acceptance rate has dropped 12%. As Oyster River Class of 2009 graduate Ellen-Claire Slepian explained, “For a lot of students [UNH is] their first choice. It is a lot more competitive to get into and it is definitely more acceptable to go there now than it was even a couple of years ago.” Slepian ended up attending SUNY Canton because she wanted to go into nursing and the nursing school at UNH is very competitive, “I think something ridiculous like 20 freshmen get admitted every year, so I decided to go to a school where I got accepted to the nursing program.”

UNH ranks 55th among public universities and it ranks 101st among universities nationwide, according to the U.S. News, Best Colleges of 2010. Machanoff explained that UNH has many programs ranked regionally and nationally. “It’s one of the best business schools in the country,” said Oyster River Senior Sean Leahy who said that UNH is his top choice. So as seniors begin to submit their college applications, juniors are beginning their college searches, and underclassmen are just starting to think about life after high school, it is important to understand the future of admissions and how hard it is to get into UNH, a popular choice among Oyster River students.

Why UNH is Becoming More Selective?

With a 12% drop in UNH’s acceptance rate undoubtedly it has gotten harder for applicants to get accepted. But, why has this happened?

The most apparent reason is an occurrence nation wide where more and more students are pursuing a post-secondary education. According to UNH Director of Admissions McGann UNH has seen a 60% rise in number of applicant from 8 years ago. McGann explained that a recent spike in applicants and attendees has been a result of in-state students seeking cheaper tuition due to the slow economy.

Another example where UNH saw a sudden spike in students enrolling was in 2006 when for some reason more students enrolled than UNH was ready for. UNH Class of 2008 Alum, Chris Mulstay explained how UNH dealt with the student surplus, “They had to get people rooms at the school hotel as their dorm rooms so I think that maybe they’ve realized that there has been an increase in the number of students who choose UNH after being accepted, so they are able to be more selective.” Mulstay went on to say that the incident in 2006 was a large part as to why they built the new dorms—to accommodate the class size they had.

How Hard is it to Get Into UNH?

The college essay, recommendations, course selection, and resume are all very important parts of the admission process, but it is very difficult to put a numerical value on these. When prospective students are considering the difficulty of getting into a college they look at the numbers like GPA, SAT scores, etc. According to UNH Director of Admissions, Robert McGann, they look for students that have had “a solid high school performance.” McGann said that this is generally an average of a B or B+. When it comes to class rank in high school the average UNH student was between the top 25 and 10 percent in their class and only 2% were in the bottom fifty. The average UNH student had a GPA of a 3.33. In regards to SAT scores the average UNH student had a combined SAT score of 1742.

Course selection is also and important part of the admissions process. At UNH 100% of the students took four or more years of English, 93% took four or more years of math, 85% took four or more years of social science, 83% took four or more years of science, and 64% took four or more years of foreign language.

Is UNH Fair to In-State Students?

One of the myths that goes around in regards to UNH is that out of state students are favored over in-state students. The truth is that the ratio between in-state and out of state students has relatively stayed the same throughout the years. As of the fall of 2008 57% of the UNH student population was from New Hampshire between the two. If UNH in-state population is compared to the University of Maine there is a big difference. 80% of the University of Maine’s student body is from Maine as apposed to the 57% at UNH. The reason for this goes back to the idea that out of state students bring in more money than in-state students. McGann explained that UNH gets very little funding from the State of New Hampshire, “We’re pretty much a private

institution.”

In fact, according to McGann, New Hampshire is ranked 50th in state government spending on education. McGann said that this is because New Hampshire does not having a sales or income tax. With low government funding forces UNH to both accept more out of state students and have a high in-state tuition. At \$12, 743 this puts UNH up with the University of Vermont at \$13,554 and over the University of Virginia, one of the top three public universities in the country, at \$9,672.

In terms of grants and scholarship distribution in-state students receive \$11,765,068 less than out of state students. McGann said that this difference occurs since out of state students pay more than in-state students then they’re more likely in need of more financial assistance. In retrospect about 400 more in-state students received grants and scholarships than out of state students.

Oyster River Students and UNH

For Oyster River Students, UNH is unavoidable—whether it’s UNH’s presence in downtown or Durham’s inflated property taxes. Having a top public university in your backyard is definitely a very useful educational opportunity for the Oyster River School District, but can it also be a burden? A drawback of UNH that is usually brought up

by many Oyster River Students is that they grew up in Durham and that they don’t want to live there another four years. “I’m there like every day and it’s boring,” said Oyster River Senior Scott Leslie, “my dad could stalk me!”

Nonetheless, this hasn’t deterred Oyster River Students from applying and ultimately attending UNH. In past years the number of Oyster River Students applying to UNH has gone up. In 2007, 51 students applied, in 2008, 59 students applied and 2009 saw a large jump to 85 students applying. Furthermore, the jump between the number of students who enrolled in UNH from 2008 and the number in 2009 jumped 14 students or 8% of Oyster River Students who attended college those years. This difference between 2007 and 2008 could be attributed to the economic downturn. “A lot of student’s parents work for UNH [so] it’s...a good financial option as well,” said Slepian.

Along with a large ratio of students who have applied to UNH, an average of approximately 39% in the past three years, Oyster River Students have had a very high acceptance rate compared with UNH’s official acceptance rate. For Oyster River students applying to UNH from the Class of 2007 had a 100% acceptance rate, the Class of 2008 had a 71% acceptance rate, and the Class of 2009 had an 89%

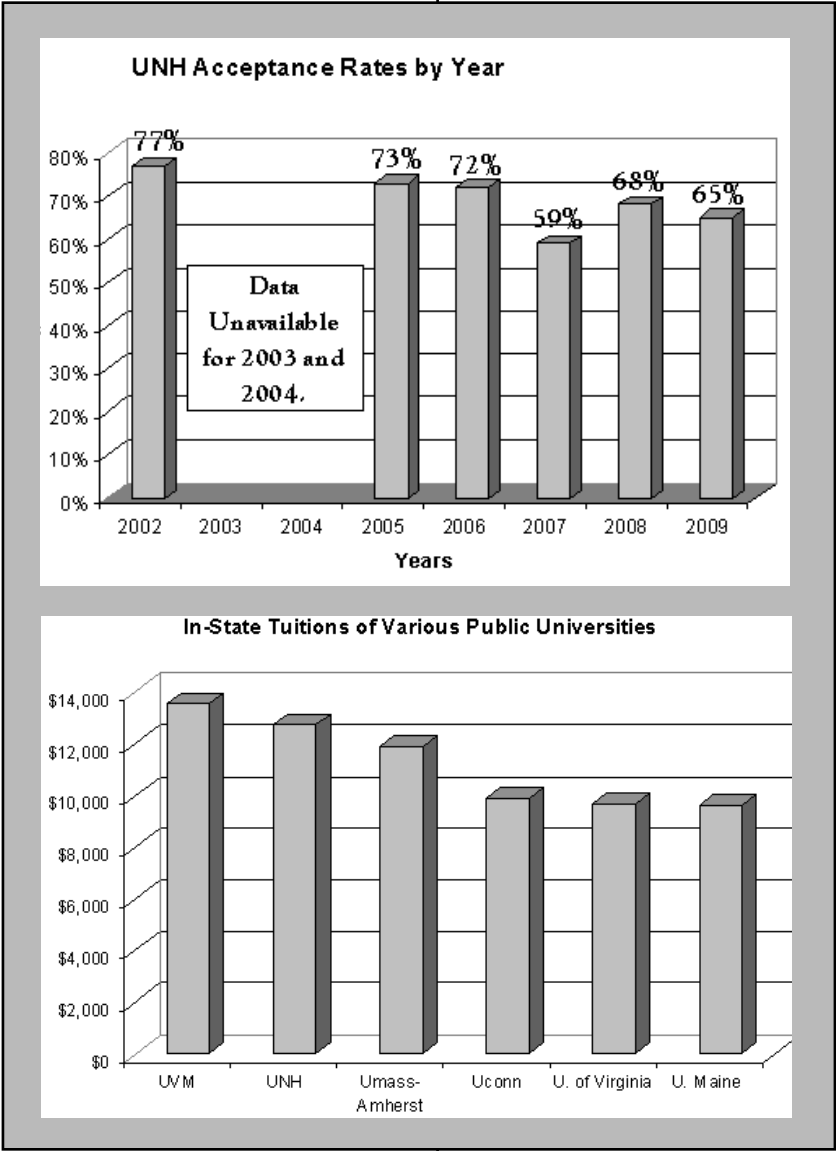
acceptance rate. UNH’s official acceptance rates were 59% in 2007, 68% in 2008, and 65% in 2009. According to Senior Associate Director of Admissions, Sharen Gibadlo UNH will typically accept an Oyster River Student in the top 50% of his/her class, with an overall achievement of a B, and a “appropriate course selection.

The Future of UNH

UNH Admissions Director McGann points to three key points that affect the future of UNH: economy, demographics, and less New Hampshire students graduating from high school. He said that a bad economy will attract more in-state students. While a good economy will give students more head room in terms of attending more expensive post-secondary institutions. Looking further down the road demographics will play a role in UNH’s future. McGann essentially said that race distribution will be more equal. A less of the percentage of students will be white while there will be more minority students. “That’s going to be a significant shift for New Hampshire,” he explained. Finally, according to McGann, New Hampshire’s graduating level is projected to decline by 10-12%. This is a decreasing factor on the number of students who’ll enroll in UNH. Albeit, despite these factors McGann, thought that there wouldn’t be any drastic changes between now and UNH down the road, “I think UNH will be a stable institution.”



The SERC droms that were built after the sudden increase of students at UNH in 2006.



New Faces at Oyster River

Q & A with Mr. Oxnard



Sara Usher
News Writer

Twenty students is nothing to Mr. Oxnard. Growing up in Exeter NH he’s used to having a lot of people in a room since he has 30 cousins and 10 chickens. Oxnard teaches physical science and biology.



Q: What’s your perfect Saturday afternoon?
A: Just hanging out with my daughter. She is 2 years old.
Q: How did our school’s spirit week compare to other schools you’ve worked at?
A: There was a lot more animosity here than I’ve seen.
Q: If you could date any celebrity who would it be?
A: I’m married.
Q: Do you have any hobbies outside of school?
A: I used to hike a lot.
Q: What is your favorite movie?
A: The Blues Brothers.
Q: What kind of car do you drive?
A: A beat up outback.
Q: What is your biggest fear?
A: Fear of heights.
Q: If you could have any superpower what would it be?
A: It would be pretty cool to shoot webs out of my hands and swing around in trees.
Q: Have you had any interesting jobs?
A: It sounds weird but studying fruit flies is pretty cool.
Q: Chinese or Mexican food?
A: Mexican.
Q: No feet or no hands?
A: No feet.
Q: Burger King or McDonalds?
A: Burger King.
Q: Do you support the second amendment?
A: Within reason.
Q: Blondes or brunettes?
A: Blondes. My wife is blonde.
Q: Communism or capitalism?
A: Capitalism.
Q: Furthest place you’ve traveled from home?
A: Ukraine.

Meet the P.O.

Fifteen years ago Sean Dolliver was sitting in our school just like you are today as a student. This year he returns with a *little* more respect than the average student. Sean Dolliver is the new resource police officer at Oyster River High School. And although he’s new to us he is no rookie to the police force. With 10 years of experience as a cop he has spent a lot of time in various areas of police work such as 5 years as a detective and 2 years in the drug force he is more than qualified for ORHS.

Officer Dolliver is thought of very highly at the Durham Police Station so the choice for the ORHS resource officer was easy. “Well I saw Sean in the same vein and commitment [as Levesque]. He’s a well rounded individual. He relates very well and wants to render coaching and life skills,” commented Durham police Chief David Kurtz, referring to the fact that Officer Dolliver will also be the assistant coach to the boys’ varsity hockey team. “Even though he was the only one who applied for the job, he would have been seriously considered. He is a great officer and will do great at this job,” said Officer Levesque.

Be careful not to mistake him for one of the boys at our school because his interests may overlap with theirs. He enjoys hockey, waterskiing, lots of boating, and snowmobiles. One of his favorite movies is The Departed. Officer Dolliver is going to be an excellent asset to our school and hockey team. He has an open door policy so feel free to say hi and get to know him yourself.



Q & A with Ms. Van Dyke

Ms. Van Dyke has been to more exciting places than NH in her life. With her parents in the military she lived all over the world; her favorite place to live was England. Although she was surrounded by the military while growing up she always dreamed of being a cowgirl.

Q: What school did you work at before coming to Oyster River?
A: I taught at Dover High School.
Q: How did spirit week go in comparison to other schools?
A: It went very smooth. I enjoyed it because it was very calm.
Q: Do you have any hobbies outside of school?
A: I play ice hockey and read a lot.
Q: What is your favorite movie?
A: An American President, how’s that for a social studies teacher answer?
Q: What is your biggest fear?
A: Apathy in people.
Q: If you could choose to have any superpower what would it be?
A: I would like to be super strong.
Q: How do you like your steak?
A: Very well done...burnt.
Q: Have you had any interesting jobs in the past?
A: I was in the Military for 6 years.
Q: Mexican or Chinese food?
A: Mexican.
Q: Would you rather have no feet or no hands?
A: No feet.
Q: Burger King or McDonalds?
A: Neither.
Q: Right or Left?
A: Right.
Q: If you could go on a date with any celebrity who would it be?
A: President Barrack Obama. I would hope to gain enthusiasm and hope from him.



Alex Buck
News Writer

Hard Work Awarded

On Wednesday December 2nd, Celeste Best received the 2009 NHSTE Pat Keyes Technology-Using Educator Award. She received the award during the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference which was held at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, NH. For those of you who don’t know Celeste Best, she is a science teacher and technology mentor at Oyster River High School. Best received the award for her extensive technological integration in her science classes. Over her years at Oyster River High School she has written and acquired more technology grants than any other teacher at the High School. She has also worked hard including both Mast Way and Moharimet elementary schools in integrated science projects. She has acquired approximately \$20,000 on her own in grants and another \$15,000 with the help of Director of Instruction, Danielle Bolduc. Her grant money is spent on new technological tools like Vernier probe ware, virtual labs, and LabQuests. Best is currently working on getting the High School the P.E.P. grant. The grant would give the High School \$500,000 to build a brand new fitness center.



Mrs. Best preparing for a lab.

Mentor, Officer and Friend: Sergeant Ed Levesque Retires



Ben Belanger
News Writer

“I don’t talk to cops.” ORHS Junior Mike Horne isn’t a fan of the police, to say the least. Horne, however, was often seen sitting in former Student Resource Officer Ed Levesque’s office doing the unthinkable – talking. In his time as SRO at ORHS, Levesque showed students another side of the Police. After 10 years as Oyster River’s SRO and 25 years serving as a full time policeman for Durham and Lee, Sergeant Ed Levesque is

retiring. “It’s time for a change in my life,” he says. Moving forward, Levesque will be working part time on patrol and public relations with the UNH Police.

“He’s a great guy,” said Principal Laura Rogers of Levesque. “He has meant a tremendous amount to this school.” Other Oyster River Staff members echo Mrs. Rogers feeling.

“He is the kind of guy who makes you feel welcome no matter who you are,” says past ORHS Student and Teacher, Alex Foster.

According to Levesque, he never pictured himself in his position at the Oyster River School District. “I was under the impression that police work would involve dealing with only negative issues,” explains Levesque. “Oyster River has shown me there are many more positive aspects to the job.”

Before finding his niche at Oyster River, Levesque was a detective and a Patrol Officer, and also served in the military. When Police Chief David Kurz took his job in Durham, Levesque was already considered an excellent officer. Kurz was so impressed by Levesque that he promoted him to Sergeant. Levesque was also offered the job as the first SRO at Oyster River. “When we went to the format of Student Resource Officers... that was a change,” explains Kurz. “It was very important for the first one to make a good impression.” Prior to becoming SRO, Levesque had taught D.A.R.E. drug prevention classes and had established a reputation of being committed, intelligent and compassionate. When the time came to make the decision as to who would become Oyster River’s first SRO, Kurz hardly had to think. “Ed simply fit that bill,” he says. “He brought a lot of good qualities to the table.”

Since he started at Oyster River, Levesque says the staff and students here have given him “nothing but support.” Levesque seems to be friendly with everyone, but he calls Teachers Mike Troy, Tim Lawrence, Marc LaForce and Brendan Whalen his best friends at the High School. Levesque is remembered as the funny-man of the group; always prepared with a joke. “I’ve never seen a day where he couldn’t pull out a new joke,” said Whalen.

Teachers and friends of Levesque all seem to have an admiration of Levesque and will remember him with high regards. “Ed has my unending respect,” said Lawrence. “He is perfectly suited for this job.”

Students appear to have equal respect and admiration for Levesque. “He was the perfect man for the job,” said ORHS

Senior Cody Mills, echoing the words of Lawrence. “He truly cares about the students at Oyster River and he was there for all of us. He was very informative and did anything in his power to try keeping us kids out of trouble.”

Described as “infinitely patient” by ORHS Secretary, Sue Miale, Levesque had a way of working with students and making them feel accepted that few have the ability to do. “For some

“Friendly and focused”
– Wally Keniston

“Badass”
– Graham Wakefield, Senior

“He was the perfect man for the job. He truly cared about the students at Oyster River and he was there for all of us. He was very informative and did anything in his power to try to keep us kids out of trouble”
– Cody Mills, Senior

“He’s dedicated but not to a point where he’s blind sighted by power tripping. You can tell he just genuinely cares about people and he’s just all in all a great guy and definitely always down to give advice.”
– Karissa Layden, ORHS Graduate

“Caring, funny and a good sport”
– Barbara Milliken, Foreign Language

“Friendly, laid back and a real nice person.”
– Ryder Carbone, Senior

“Bald Cop that is the Man”
– Jeff Johnson, Junior



Levesque (left) with Friend Mike Troy



Levesque (left) posing with Tim Lawrence for a past MOR cover

kids,” said Rodgers, “Levesque is a good friend, someone to look up to.”

Working at a high school, Levesque learned pretty fast that teenagers mess up sometimes. The difference between Levesque and most people was his incredible patience and the care that he had for students. “Even when [students] make mistakes, the first person they want to go to is Levesque,” said Rodgers. “They know he won’t judge them.”

“He’s one of the coolest cops I know.”
-Leah Janelle, Junior

Perhaps one of Levesque’s best qualities is his trustworthiness. “It’s very rare to have a police officer like Levesque,” said Lawrence. “Kids you would never expect to talk to a police officer will be sitting in a room talking to Levesque just for the hell of it.” Students seemed to be able to talk to Levesque about anything, but say they do not have the same comfort level with other police officers. Levesque represented something more than a cop to these kids and once

“Laid back and Smart.”
-Willie Bornkessel, Junior

students realized that Levesque was someone that they could trust and who genuinely cared about them, he became more of a father figure

than a police officer.

Horne is a perfect example of this. Even though he “doesn’t talk to cops”, Mike is frequently seen sitting at Levesque’s desk. “He doesn’t get people in trouble,” said Horne, who has personally talked to Levesque about many personal issues, including trouble with the law. Horne has never felt that Levesque would judge him or get him in trouble.

Landon Curtis, another junior at ORHS agrees with Horne. “[Levesque] is the only cool cop I’ve ever met,” agreed Curtis.

“Very knowledgeable and good at interacting with the student body”
–Roy Hutton, Junior

He may be moving on to another career, but Levesque won’t soon forget his experiences at Oyster River. “In my career and time in the military, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life,” said Levesque. “The students and staff who work here are some of the best I’ve met.”

Levesque has left a lasting impression on the Oyster River School District and he has certainly set the bar high for future Resource Officers. Being remembered as someone who was perfectly suited for their job is not a title that is easily attained. It is clear that Levesque, deservedly, will be missed greatly by Oyster River. “We are going to miss him,” said Mike Troy. “He was one of the best things this school ever had. This school won’t be the same without Ed Levesque.”



Cutting It Close



Alex Buck
News Writer

Imagine your favorite sport, class, or club being cut because of the decrease of school funds. For the Oyster River district this idea is becoming more and more of a reality. Hard times have hit most communities around the nation and Durham tax payers are speaking out against high taxes, looking at the school board for some kind of solution. The big question being asked is how you weigh the quality of Oyster River educations against high taxes. However this is not the only financial obstacle that will be hitting the budget for next year.

These are the facts.....

Budget season is upon the Oyster River School Board and decisions made by the board affect all of those who live within the district. This economic recession has caused many communities to cut down on their expenses and one solution many Durham taxpayers are looking for is a decrease in taxes. On October 21 during a school board meeting at Oyster River High School, 3 Durham residents said they would like to see a 0% increase for next year's budget. A 0% increase would mean the district would use the previous year's budget instead of the default budget determined the previous year. In real terms a 0% budget would represent a negative budget adjusted for inflation and other factors. The 2009-2010 budget is \$36,754,061 and the default budget is \$37,312,021. A 0% increase would leave a difference of more than \$500,000. This means at least \$500,000 would have to be cut from the district's budget. This number has the possibility of being much higher because of another aspect of the budget. This year the School Board has proposed a TIP of \$175,000. TIP is a sum of money set aside to fund technological improvements within the district. If the TIP gets passed by the voters, the sum of money needed to fund these improvements would have to be taken from the existing budget. Making the grand total of possible budget cuts to over \$675,000.

"The default budget allows the district to carry on its legal and statutory obligations," said Business Administrator, Blain Cox. Components like the Collective Bargaining Agreement legally cannot be cut. The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) guarantees the teachers and other selected staff member's contracts will be upheld. This means that the district must incorporate salary increases in the budget no matter what. The increase that must be incorporated is between 2-4% for all staff members included in the CBA. This is not the only appropriation that cannot be tampered with. Approximately only 20% of the Oyster River District budget can be cut from. So what does that 20% of the district budget represent?

.....Here are the effects

"Things that aren't essential go," said Laura Rogers, the principal at Oyster River High School. What isn't essential? Something essential to one person might not be essential to someone else. Things that are not essential in the eyes of the administration are things like sports programs and equipment, funding for clubs, and classes with low enrollment. "Pay for play," stated by Laura Rogers is becoming more and more popular. Pay for play would mean that many of the sports teams would start having to personally pay for equipment or uniforms that the school has paid for in the past. More extreme cases of cuts in the sports department could involve the Oyster River High School girls' hockey team. In an attempt to save money the state might diminish the girls' hockey league because of the lack of enrollment and small number of teams that participate. Many people ask how these budget cuts will affect the students of the Oyster River District. Financial difficulties have already begun to affect students. Due to the economic recession District Officials put a cap on the amount a family can spend on field trips. Because of this new rule students are unable to attend many educational fieldtrips previous students have been able to experience. This year 5th graders will not be going to Environmental Camp, an occurrence that hasn't happened in decades. "It not only provides a great hands-on educational experience in science and geography, but also an invaluable team building experience," said School Board Member, David Taylor.

.....And what about taxpayers.....

The group of people advocating for these budgetary cuts are the taxpayers funding the Oyster River District. "My tax bill has increased 1 ½ times since 2001 and inflation has only risen 22% during the same time," said School Board Member, Mark Townsend. The discrepancy between those two numbers is tremendous. As a member of the Madbury community, Townsend has had to deal with substantial increases in tax rates. This past year Madbury had an increase of about 10% in their tax rate due to a decrease in the AEG state grant. "You have to think of retired people who have fixed incomes," said Rogers. Many of the homeowners residing within the district are retired and continually must adapt to inflation and increase in tax rates. However is it the school's fault that taxes are so high? Many Durham residents are asking for lower taxes however it might not be the school they should be looking at. Within the district the town that had the highest total school tax rate was Lee yet Durham still has a higher total tax rate. The reason for this is Durham has a higher town and county tax rate then the other two towns within the district. Also Durham receives fewer funds through the AEG state grant than Lee. There are many components to developing a tax rate a fact that many taxpayers overlook. So how likely is it that large budgetary cuts will be thrown upon the Oyster River District? This early into the budget season it is impossible to tell for sure. It is all about the numbers and the decisions of the voters however "it hasn't been the trend," stated School Board Member, Jocelyn O'Quinn.



School Board Deliberations

Upcoming Budget Meetings

December 14 @ 9:30am - High School
December 14 @ 7:00pm - Mast Way
December 15 @ 7:00pm - Moharimet

International Shakespeares



Alex Buck
News Writer



Mrs. Beatons cast of "The Billy Goats Gruff"

TIMON: Uh oh.
Ils l'ont appele un cochon.
PUMBA: C'est a moi que tu parles?
BANZAI: Oui,
COCHON! On va te manger!
PUMBA Pour vous deux, c'est MON-SIEUR COCHON!
PUMBA et TIMON: Aaaaaiiiiiiiii!

Seniors Emily Reny, Alexandra Sosnowski, and Michael Graham performing their French adaptation of "The Lion King", one of the many plays performed by foreign language students. On November 18 the High School was the set of the yearly World Language festival that is hosted by the world language department. The festival consists of plays in Spanish and French that Oyster River High School students perform in and a grand selection of different international dishes that the students have made themselves. In higher level classes the students are required to write their own plays. "It wasn't too hard to write the play because a lot of it was prewritten for us," Said Victorian Hanson, cast member of "The Lion King". Performances like "Shrek" and "The Billy Goats Gruff" are only some of the many plays performed during the festival. The students are given approximately 3 weeks to memorizes their lines, create props, and practice the play. "We always worry if they kids are going to have their lines memorized and be ready, and every year the kids are always ready and always great," said Mary Beaton, a foreign language teacher at ORHS.





Sara Usher
News Writer

When Pigs Fly: The Swine Flew

The Spanish influenza killed 28 million people, how many will die from this flu? With hand sanitizers around every corner of the Oyster River Cooperative School District we are trying desperately to defeat the spread of the H1N1 flu and eventually the seasonal flu. Right now there is a shortness of the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines. Since the awareness of the H1N1 has increased, more people have also become aware of the seasonal flu. Lots of people are interested in getting the H1N1 vaccine right now and since that demand is so high and the vaccine companies can only make so many vaccines they decrease the production of the seasonal flu to produce more H1N1 vaccines. This will not be a huge concern until flu season hits in late winter to early spring for the ORHS area.

The seasonal flu vaccine shortage is however a problem for those in Pennsylvania. The seasonal flu vaccine must be kept between the temperature of 35 and 46 degrees Fahrenheit. For example when the 6,000 doses ordered for the residents of Monroe County in Pennsylvania was stored in at a temperature at 31 degrees; all 6,000 doses had to be thrown out. In response to the obviously upset residents, the Center for Disease Control shipped out 820,000 free doses of the vaccine to Pennsylvania.

The Oyster River Cooperative School District always hosts a clinic for their employees so that faculty members are easily able to get the vaccine. The Public Health Nursing usually administers flu shots to the employees but the clinic has been canceled three times this year and the third cancellation is most likely to be final. It was canceled due to the shortness of supply of the seasonal flu vaccine. Now employees must seek their personal health care providers for the flu shot. The effect on ORHS is significant but not as bad as other school districts in our area. On November 18th we had approximately 50 students out with 20 of them reporting influenza – like symptoms. Many schools in our area have been hit hard with the flu. For example Newmarket High School had 150 out of their 500 students home sick in early November.

ORHS senior Rachel Chiodo, who has recently recovered from H1N1, said “It was awful, like having mono and pneumonia at the same time.”



Influenza Vaccine Shot

Chiodo reported that she will not be getting the seasonal flu vaccine or the H1N1 vaccine next year because she does not believe in injections. “When I went to the doctors to get tested I was put in a separate room and had to wear a mask”.

The other schools in the district have reported multiple cases. Moharimet nurse, Tracy Schroeder, said that she visited every classroom to educate the children on how to keep clean and disease free. In early November they had an average of 40 out of 400 students out which is 10% of the school home sick. The middle school nurse, Eileen Moran said they did not have a big problem because plenty of people there are pretty educated about the issue at hand.

The flu is not just an American issue, it is world wide. It has hit virtually every country on the planet. Afghanistan ordered a three-week closure of all schools after the country’s first reported H1N1 death. Nearly 400 schools in South Korea have been closed due to the 42 deaths at the hand of H1N1. With a total of at least 5,700 dead due to swine flu, approximately 4,175 of those 5700 lived in either North or South America. Eleven countries have donated 200 million doses of the vaccine to other countries that cannot produce the vaccine themselves.

Vaccines now are only being offered to those with conditions like diabetes, asthma, pregnant women, and infants. Countries around the world are struggling to find vaccines for these dreaded flues. But the vaccine is already in front of us, using hand sanitizer, washing our hands, and coughing in our sleeves are the painless ways to not contract any type of flu.

Message to the Community from Nurse Richards

- Please continue your efforts to stay healthy and avoid the flu.
1. Wash your hands frequently and ALWAYS before touching your face, nose, mouth and eyes.
 2. Do not share food or drinks.
 3. Use serving spoons or tongs to serve from a communal bowl, and then wash your hands before starting to eat.
 4. Use your own pen to sign checks at the store check-out.
 5. Cover your cough with your elbow, even little dry ones, and sneeze into your sleeve or tissue, then wash your hands. (Cloth handkerchiefs retain viruses until washed and ironed, dispose of paper tissues responsibly.)
 6. Hand sanitizer is a great substitute to use if you can not get to a sink with warm water and soap. Wash long enough to sing Happy Birthday twice. Yes it seems long, just do it!
 7. Wipe down door handles, keyboards, railings, and contaminated surfaces with disinfectant wipes. See me for replacement supplies.
 8. Eat healthy, get sleep, and stay home if you are sick. Be responsible and stop the spread!
 9. Remember to contact me if you are home with a fever (100+ F) and a cough or a fever (100+F) and sore throat. It is better to do this now in the moment rather than 3 months from now when you may not remember the details. ORHS a Flu Reporting School and we need to accurately report the absence of sick adults too.
 10. Do not return to work until you have been fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT the assistance of Tylenol or Advil (acetaminophen or ibuprofen). Before you have symptoms and until the fever breaks you are contagious. I heard from the CDC that if you come to work sick with the flu you can expose 10% of your coworkers!
 11. Use the website to find the H1N1 vaccine and call your health care provider regularly for the vaccine <<http://www.nh.gov/h1n1/vaccine.htm>>
 12. Don't forget to get the seasonal flu vaccine as well. Who wants to go through this twice!
- Call or email me with questions.
Thanks,
Danuta Richards, RN

Q & A with a former Swine Flu Patient



ORHS senior Danny Duvall coughs into his sleeve

- Q: So what was it like having swine flu?
A: Tough and tiring. Everything was sore because of the mad body aches
Q: what was the main difference between that and the regular flu?
A: the aches were probably the biggest difference
Q: What were some of the symptoms that you had?
A: 102+ fever, aches, restless leg syndrome, hard coughing, eventually nausea. not able to sleep at night.
apple: do you plan to get the regular flu vaccine and the h1n1 vaccine next yearand
Danny: I probably will though.
Q: and how long were you sick for
A: about 5 days. Supposively swine flu doesn't hit those as hard that are younger, and don't have things like bad allergies or asthma So mine peaked for a couple days, then died down



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DOVER, N.H., THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2, 1999

Fire strikes OR



Foster's Daily Democrat issue that came out days after the fire

A firefighter climbs out a window area after a three-alarm fire broke out in the wood shop at Oyster River High School late Wednesday night in Durham.
(Staff photo — Mark Bolton)

Sara Usher
News Writer

10 Year Anniverary of Oyster River’s Big Blaze

How far would you go to be with the one you love? Would you fight for them? Would you die for them? Would you attempt to burn down their school? Well on November 28th, 1999 Scott Ryan, a 20-year-old man from Mass., attempted to do just that. He was dating an ORHS student at the time so in order to spend more time with her he tried to burn down Oyster River High School. The fire was set in and destroyed Oyster River High School’s woodshop. Mike Troy is the woodshop teacher at the high school and was shocked when he found out about the fire.

The fire alarms notified the police at 11:30 p.m. that night. According to Foster’s Daily Democrat article released at the time, the last employees of the school left at 11 p.m. just missing the criminals. The fire moved through the classroom, woodshop, and the garage. The school lacked a sprinkler system at the time which could have prevented the fire from spreading as far as it did. The woodshop contains many flammable substances and gases but luckily they were kept in a closed inflammable cabinet. ORHS was closed for two days while an investigation was conducted according to Officer Levesque, who worked on the case.

The fire caused an estimated amount of \$250,000 in damage but more money was spent on hire a company to clean the entire building of smoke. The five people who were charged with starting the fire at ORHS entered the building by smashing the classrooms windows. Each was held on \$100,000 bail and the juvenile was picked up by his parents. The people charged were the man from Mass. The criminals used gasoline and rags in glass bottles to create devices to set fire to ORHS.

Troy was first notified by a call at 5:00 a.m. “My brother called me at 5 and told me to put on channel 9 because my shop was on the news and as soon as I hung up the phone the then principal Cairns called to tell me that there was a fire in my shop and that the police wished to talk to me” said Troy.

“The first thing that went through my mind was is this something I had done?” recalls Troy. “I have a routine when I unplug everything before I leave”. Troy drove to the school from his home in Barnstead hoping he didn’t leave something on like a hot glue gun. Troy arrived at the scene just in time to watch his classroom come down in flames. “I couldn’t even recognize the shop,” remembered Troy.

Keeping in mind that this fire was before the early 2000 renovations, ORHS is a fairly safe school these days but as hard as it is to believe we did not have any fancy cameras or sprinkler systems in the 90’s. The fire started at approximately 11:30 p.m. and the fire fighters arrived at about 5 am.

The school was closed for two days due to the fire. Lou Mroz, an ORHS teacher, commented on the event. “I was just appalled that someone was dumb enough to do something like that. Someone could’ve gotten hurt.” Martin Brewer, a colleague of Mroz, said, “Troy has always been thought of highly so it was hard to believe that it was an action against him. The school came together. Unfortunately in situations like 9/11 and Fort Hood, it takes a senseless act to bring people to together.”

Thankfully the insurance company took care of rebuilding the whole shop. During the reconstruction Troy, who had help from his good friend and colleague Tim Lawrence, had to photograph every tool in the shop and then throw them out even if they weren’t damaged in the fire. This was done to avoid liability if one of the tools malfunctioned during a class. With good friends and a strong community to support Troy, the shop was rebuilt and ready in September 2000. “The faculty, staff, and students were awesome, they helped in any way they could,” remembers Troy. “It’s just hard to believe it’s been 10 years.”

Not many people at Oyster River High School even know that someone attempted to burn down our school just one decade ago. Even less people know that there were two other vandalism attacks that year involving minor fires in the boys’ bathroom.



ORHS woodshop after the fire



The current ORHS woodshop





Bridget Regan
Features Writer

Getting Fired Up

“I’m a hot Indian kid and guns are fun!” said Junior Gubby Noronha. Students of Oyster River High School do many things outside of school. Quite a few of them enjoy hunting or shooting, more than you would imagine. Noronha is an avid runner but also has been shooting rifles and shotguns since he was 12 years old. He’s not the only one who enjoys this sport for a past time.

“I just like to sit and hide in trees waiting for animals,” said Mike Bilynsky, a junior at ORHS. “It’s pretty fun.” Bilynsky started hunting two years ago, but only recently has he started going out hunting by himself. In New Hampshire, the law states that if you are under 16 then you must be accompanied by someone who is a licensed adult.

Junior Willie Bornkessel has been hunting since he was 9 or 10. “I like to watch the day and all the animals come awake and watching the sunrise,” said Bornkessel. “Just being outside when you finally see the game you’re hunting and you get a huge adrenaline rush. That’s amazing.”

Hunters often have a stereotype as being trigger hunters who hate nature. Many hunters feel just the opposite.

“People who hunt know a lot more about the environment and things like that. Just because you hunt does not mean that you are willing to go around shooting a deer or a duck every time you see it,” said Spencer Wyand. According to Wyand, hunting is a service to the animals.

“Without hunting, populations of deer would be too high and therefore other animals who eat the same food as deer would start to die off; so if anything it starts to improve the quality of the quality of the ecosystem and does not destroy it as long as the hunter is responsible, and 99.9% of them are, and they only take the limit of what they’re allowed to take.”

Sara Wotton, a passionate bird hunter, has similar opinions to Wyand; “I can understand when people criticize [hunting]. We eat the animals that we kill. I have my own issues with people that just kill something to kill it.”

Wotton has been hunting for over 10 years with her 2 bird dogs and her husband. “I don’t think I would have gotten into it without my dogs. I really enjoy watching them work.”

Another member of the Oyster River faculty, Amy McPhee, does quite a bit of hunting herself. “For me it’s a family sport, but I realize that it’s not for everybody.” McPhee has been hunting since she was about 14 or 15 years old but understands other people’s views on it. “I kind of feel like hunting is having a conversation with someone about religion. I usually try not to talk about it to disrespect people. I would like people to be open-minded and have an opening discussion about hunting, but I’m not looking to argue.”

The arrival of fall has always brought with it the arrival of hunters in our state. The students of Oyster River are no different. Those that hunt and shoot, love their sport as much as any other athlete. “It’s not a hick sport. It’s really fun when you get into it,” said Bilynsky. “It’s more of a sport then people think.”



Helen Segil posing after a day of shooting

A Weekend in the Woods

On October 24th, 2009, Helen Segil and I ventured in to the Northern Maine wilderness with gun enthusiast, Sam Coleman, High School student of Yarmouth, Maine. Coleman has only

been shooting guns for a couple of years now but was ecstatic about teaching the two of us how to shoot a 12 gauge Benelli Super Nova Pump Shotgun. We were quickly briefed on gun safety before we were allowed to touch the gun.

“Always treat a gun as if it’s loaded,” said Coleman. “Always be aware of where other people are standing, make sure you know what is behind your target, and don’t do anything stupid.” After that, Segil and I were on our way. Because neither of us have a hunting license we stuck to shooting clay pigeons or clay discs.

Segil was the first one up to shoot. She loaded the gun, unlocked the trigger and let the shot ring loose. BAM! A direct hit.

I was the next one up to shoot and I had no idea what I was doing. The weight of the gun was tiring out my arm and I had heard stories of forceful shotguns backfiring after the shot and breaking people’s shoulders. After I finally mustered up enough courage to pull the trigger, I jumped back about 2 feet from the impact of the gun and the noise. A direct hit as well and the best adrenaline rush I have ever had.

We continued shooting for a while longer and the rush of shooting never left. Although I personally never want to shoot anything that’s living, I definitely am planning on going out shooting again in the future and would recommend anyone to try it if they had ever been interested in it.

Where you can hunt:

Federal Lands

State Lands and State-managed lands:

117 State Forests

41 State Parks

63 Other Tracts

100 Wildlife Management Areas

Private lands owned by paper or timber companies

Private, county and municipal lands

What can you shoot right now?

10/1 – 12/31 – Pheasants

Sept – March 2010 – Small Game

9/15 – 12/15 – Fall Turkey (Archery)

9/15 – 12/15 – Deer (Archery)

Sept – January 2010 – Waterfowl



Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer

Question of The Month What are you thankful for?

“My friends, my sister, my job, my car and my radio system.” Katti Phetakoune, Junior

“Nice people who do good deeds for the society.” Molly Moynihan, Senior

“A nice School.” Andrew D’entremont, Senior

“A good school and my friends.” Frederik Svanholm, Freshman

“Sports and family.” Hannah Grant, Freshman

“My great friend Hannah.” Jamie Wilkinson, Senior

“Food.” Ryder Carbone, Senior

“That I have loved a woman for 38 plus years.” Mr. Mroz

“Music.” Stephanie Hollister, Freshman

“Good Health.” Mike Caldon, Sophomore

“Freedom that we have as Americans” Sara Coit, Junior

“The abundance of resources that we have in the United States. There are so many countries that don’t have that access.” Megan McGregor, Junior

“A roof over my head.” Emily Beliveau, Junior

“Hannah Lonstein. . . and Netflix.” Kyle Milner, Senior

“Skittles.” Matthew McCarthy, Senior

“Winter.” Eric Burns, Senior

“That we live in such a great country that is very supportive. Also that I had the opportunity to work in such a great school with all you kids and a great district for ten years. And Serving the town of Durham for 20 years.” Sergeant Levesque

“My music and support that I get from my peers with it.” Taylor Lannamann, Senior



Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Oyster River Dreaming

“I was driving a car, and then all of the sudden I’d be in the back seat,” explains school psychologist Joseph Saxe. “I would be able to reach the steering wheel...but couldn’t control the gas.” Dr. Saxe was explaining a dream that he had frequently before getting his driver’s license. The strange thing was that when he finally got his license those dreams ended. “Some psychologists would say that means I didn’t have control over my life,” explains Dr. Saxe. “But it stopped when I got my license.” So the question is; do dreams really mean anything? Famous psychologist Sigmund Freud strongly felt that dreams spoke the secrets of the unconscious mind; however theories such as this cannot be completely proved by science.

“Dreams don’t always stand for the same things; they are different for each person. You can’t always look in a book and figure out what a dream means,” Dr. Saxe explains. Every psychologist has their own opinion on why dreams occur. Some think it’s a way for the brain to stay active and get ready for the day ahead. Others agree with Freud, believing that dreams unlock your true desires.

I’ve asked some students and teachers in our school if they’ve had any dreams worth sharing:

“I was in Pakistan running and jumped into a field to hide. There were other people hiding in the field. To the right there was a little boy and to the left there sat Osama Bin Laden,” Sara Usher says describing a recent dream she had. Some psychologists believe that your dreams reflect your life in some way. The key is trying to remember your dreams and try to decipher them. Your dreams aren’t “realistic” they are more abstract and have a lot of what you are thinking. “We hid in the field for a bit,” Sara Usher continues, “with helicopters flying over head. I don’t remember what we were hiding from all I remember is Osama Bin Laden was pretty cool.” ~ Sara Usher

“My brother and I went outside around 1 in the morning. My neighbor opened his garage door, and we heard a lawn mower start up. Then we saw my neighbor riding on the lawn mower going like 60 miles per hour up our road. Then he slammed into the light pole and all lights in the world went out. My brother and I were freaking out. Then inside my house a green dim flickering light came on and underneath the light was my dead brother. He had all kinds of things crawling on him like snakes and stuff. Then the light turned off again and something grabbed me, but then I woke up. After that I slept with the light on.” ~ Derek Libby

“It was at the base of Mount Everest, and there was a giant elevator. It had a metallic surface and it was ridiculously fast. I knew I had to get in the elevator and race up because Hitler was on the top and I had to catch him. I was riding the fastest elevator in the world for ten minutes. This elevator didn’t have any walls just a platform so I was holding on for life. I get to the top and the door opens, and there’s Hitler saying, “You’ll never catch me!” He throws a hand grenade into the elevator and closes the doors. Then the elevator starts to drop, and I’m holding on with the grenade a few feet above me. I hit the bottom wake up and the last thing I remember is Hitler talking. The weird thing is that this is a reoccurring dream” ~ Ben Zhang

“I was in the woods and there was a grizzly bear, and I had revolver. The bear stood up and growled and it charged me. I pulled out my weapon and tried to pull the trigger but as hard as I tried I couldn’t pull it. Then I woke up.” ~ Conrad Nawrocki

“I was like seven or eight years old when I had this dream and I had it for six months straight. It was so bad that my mom had me go see a therapist for a month. I’d go to bed and wake up in a dream world, but it’d feel like I was really awake. I would be in this motel place that was spilt up into a North and South, there were probably 25-30 rooms total. It was just my mom and me in one room. There was a curfew at this place and it was 9:30, which happened to be my bedtime in real life. But you couldn’t just be in your bed you had to be asleep. Every night there was a witch who was the managers little servant. She went from the north to the south going into people’s rooms and making sure they were really asleep. She’d put her hand close to your face and make sure that you were asleep using some spell, and if you weren’t asleep she’d eat you. Every night my mom and I would try so hard to fall asleep, we could heard the witch eating people in the room over. Every time, we’d fall asleep just in time, like 9:29. But one time; this is a few weeks into my therapy; I didn’t go to sleep in time. I just couldn’t get to sleep and my mom kept telling me, ‘John, John! Go to sleep!’ and then my mom fell asleep. So I hid under the bed and she opened the door. I could see her Wizard of Oz-like shoes with the curly tip of the boots. I figure she was just doing the hand thing to my mom, and then walked away. But then she turned around and lifted the cover to see me under the bed and screamed! I woke up so scared I couldn’t go back to bed, but I never had the dream again.” ~ John Andrew

“There would be dinosaurs stomping around outside and I could see pterodactyls flying around outside in the sky. My sister and I would be in the house trying to hide. And I always had to help her hide; I was protecting her from the dinosaurs. I used to have this dream all the time, but not anymore.” ~ Heather Healy

“I was in Durham near Store 24 with a bunch of friends. For some reason people started looking up, and there was a huge UFO. It filled the whole sky and it was only 100 feet away from us and getting closer. It sent down thousands of aliens and they started running around causing havoc. And for some reason endless dogs were flying from the UFO and there were tons of Great Danes. I was scared so I looked up and there was a fiery message in the sky about 2012, I don’t know what it said though. And the dream took place on December 21 2011.” ~Brendan Kotlus



Jimmy Cunningham dreaming in the junior core



Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Give Back to Your Community: *Festive Flamingo*

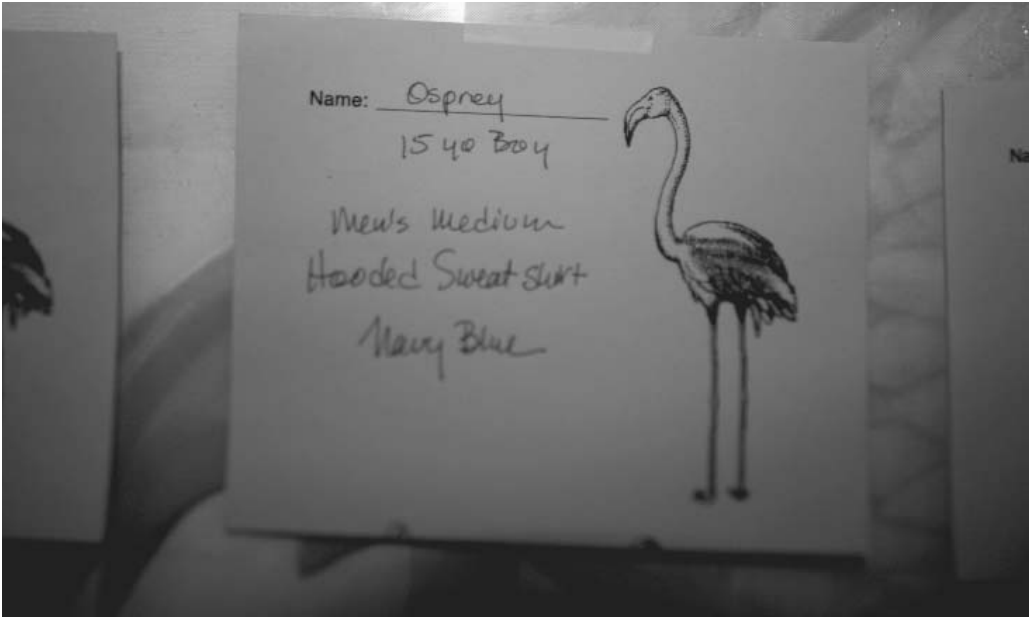
If you ever been to the nurse’s office maybe you’ve noticed all the pink. Danuta Richards, our school nurse, has flamingos everywhere in her office!

As the holiday season comes closer those flamingos are put to good use. Mrs. Richards sets up a program each year to help the people in our community. A lot of people don’t realize that some families need help during this time of year, and festive flamingos are here to help. This is a program that gives people the opportunity to help out the people in need. Each family that asks for help is given a bird name like Robin or Nightingale, to keep their name confidential. If you go through the nurse’s office and turn left you’ll see a wall of pink. On the wall there are numbers of slips with names and what the family needs. “It’s an important thing to do,” says Richards, “high school students want presents too during the holidays. They might understand they don’t have money for presents, but as kids grow they *need* new clothes and shoes.” This is a simple act of kindness that doesn’t cost much money and really means a lot to families. “I think it’s important to give back to the place you live,” says Richards, “since you get so much from it.”

If you are interested in helping out go see Mrs. Richards!



The festive flamingo wall outside of the nurses office.



A slip from the festive flamingo board





Bridget Regan
Features Writer

Imagine one day waking up on in a hammock on a island, surround by crystal clear blue water where the night before you had danced with the native people of Panama, sang songs and told stories around the fire with them. This is just one of the many experiences former ORHS student Hallie Gremlitz had when she decided to spend a year abroad.

This year at Oyster River there are four different students that are all from Europe that are studying in America. Three of them come from Germany and one hails from Sweden.

Oyster River has also had the opportunity to send sophomore, Elise Cote-Milnor, to France for the year.

The way a study abroad program typically works is a student lives in a country of their choosing for a quarter, semester, or for a full academic year. These opportunities arise for mainly college students, but high school students as well and it also a popular choice for people that want to take a year off between high school and college.

Gremlitz, an Oyster River graduate of 2008, spent an academic year in Panama in the time that she took between her senior year of high school and her senior year of college. “I just realized in the middle of applications that I had no reason for applying for school. I had no idea where I wanted to go or what I wanted to study. It seemed logical that if I didn’t know the answers to those questions then I should wait until I figured it out, instead of spending thousands of dollars on an education I wasn’t going to appreciate.”

“It’s really easy to grow up and never be out of your own country or your own town,” said Barbara Milliken who chose to spend her junior year of college in France. After staying near a couple of American student for a period of time, Milliken was able to obtain permission to go to a French university. She lived with an older woman but suggests that when people study abroad that they live with a family with children so there is more exposure to French life.

Cote-Milnor is currently fortunate enough to be staying with a French family that has two girls her age. Cote-Milnor was sick of her normal routine and wanted to do something drastically different. “I wanted to try something different for my sophomore year and I wanted to travel somewhere, so I



Elise Cote-Milnor stands alongside the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France

Up, Up and Away

picked France.”

As for the students staying at Oyster River, Axel Sjostrano, originally from Sweden, decided to come to America to learn about different cultures and to improve his English. His father used a similar program and studied near the Portsmouth area in the 1980’s. Because his father had such a positive experience, Sjostrano requested to be put in the same area and hoped to have the same understanding of other countries and cultures that his father encountered over 25 years ago.

There are also many other opportunities that arise by going to another country. Megan McGregor, a junior at ORHS, went to Costa Rica for 5 weeks in the spring of last year. Rather than studying in school like most people do when they go abroad at a high school age, McGregor worked and volunteered with her father in the Costa Rican area.

“The first few weeks I did a home stay right outside of San Jose, the capital. We did touristy things there and worked on our Spanish. The last few weeks we volunteered in a village, Tarcoles. I taught English and my dad did maintenance work around the fishing part of the village. After that we went to Nicaragua for a week. Nicaragua and volunteering were my favorite parts. I am considering moving to Nicaragua or Haiti.”

For people who are considering spending time in a different country McGregor had this advice; “I definitely recommend it. It’s the coolest thing ever. You get a taste of other countries and cultures. Some people don’t realize how privileged we are. You get a whole

new perspective of life. It really broadened my horizons and inspired me to travel more.”

Gremlitz had similar advice to give; “Just do it. Get over being nervous about it, get over thinking you can’t do something that big, because you can. You just have to do it. It will make you a stronger person and it will be an experience that is entirely priceless and irreplaceable. There are thousands of programs out there, and there is a program out there for everybody. Coming to college this year was so much easier after being away because I was already used to being gone from home, being responsible, and having to manage all my time. Not to say by any means it was an easy experience last year, but I really figured myself out and the kind of people I want around me in my life.”



Megan McGregor hanging out with her students in Costa Rica



Hallie Gremlitz and her host sister in the heart of Panama

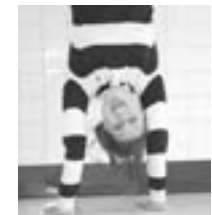
If you are interested in studying abroad, here are some programs you might consider:

American Field Study (AFS) - This program has many opportunities to travel abroad with their high school exchange program and as well as community/volunteer programs

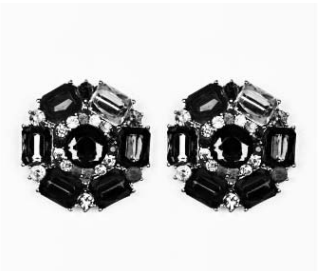
Cultural Homestay International (CHI) - This program has a high school exchange program and their company includes a work and travel abroad program, allowing people to have the opportunity to be an English teacher, as well as many other work programs.

Youth for Understanding (YFU) - YFU has programs in 64 different countries, giving many people the opportunity to study abroad. They are a highly acclaimed program that has been around since 1951.

For reviews on different exchange programs, check out: www.abroadbuzz.com, www.transitionsabroad.com, and www.lexiophiles.com!



Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer



Walk Walk Fashion Baby

I am here to let you know what I think about this seasons fashion trends. Below you will see three different trends explained and different stores to visit. Now I encourage you to go out on a limb and try new things this season! Why not? It's always fun to see heads turn!

Sleek and Chic

- The biker chick look is hot this winter. Look sleek and chic in a black leather jacket. For most of us it's hard to afford a real leather jacket, but it's not too hard to find just a cute black jacket for an affordable price. **Check out Pac Sun! They are always on top of the new trends.**
- This cute faux leather jacket is only \$59.50 at Pac Sun. Even though it is not real leather, you will still look chic and fashionable in it.
- To dress up this outfit, you could purchase a cute pair of leather ankle boots with a small heel, and a nice dress to show off your legs. **Also if you are willing to pay a little extra check out Nordstrom, they have many trendy leather jackets to spare!**
- These boots marked down from \$124.95 to now \$82.90 at Nordstrom. (There is one at the Burlington Mall or also check out their website.) Yes, they are still expensive but there but if you are looking for nice leather boots for the winter season the price range is anywhere between \$70-\$150.
- For a closer place to shop try Macy's or Charlotte Russe even though there may not be a wide selection.
- To dress down the outfit, try a dark pair of straight jeans with some ballet flats.



Pop of Color

- Try brightening up your wardrobe with flashy colors and accessories. But make sure you still have some color coordination.
- Try finding earrings or other jewelry with a lot of different colors in them and then coordinating an outfit using those colors. Since you have something to go off of, everything will coordinate making your outfit look fabulous!
- **These 4 dollar earrings from Charlotte Russe** has many different colors in them such as purple, red, yellow and green. Using these to base an outfit off of is a good idea to make your outfit pop.
- Scarves are also a good way to give your outfit that pop of color that it needs. **Try going to dELiA*s** to find outfits with a lot of color.
- **This exuberant scarf is \$19.50 at dELiA*s** and is a great way to pick up a boring outfit. This scarf has lots of colors in it such as pink, orange and light greens and blues. Also is a great way to keep you warm this fall.
- **Also check out Pac Sun for fun colored scarves.**

Fantastic Classics

- For those days when it's a bit on the chilly side but not enough to break out your winter jacket, try throwing on a classy pea coat. It can make an average outfit look classy. Try choosing one with a colorful plaid design to make your outfit more interesting.
- This form fitting blue and red plaid pea coat from **American Eagle Outfitters** can dress up any outfit. For **\$129.50** it's a quality jacket that can get you through many seasons of cold fall days.
- Finding a perfect winter hat is a way to show off your fashion sense. Try finding a cute hat that coordinates with your favorite jacket. It will make your outfit looked well planned out and people will compliment you on your coordinating skills.
- There are a lot of nice hats that can keep you warm, while also keep you looking fashionable.
- **Try looking at Gap, they have cute and affordable hats.**
- **This hat from Gap is only \$24.50 and it would look great with the pea coat above!**



Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Make-Up Exam

Every morning you wake up, brush your teeth, put your clothes on and for most girls the next step is makeup. We were all taught differently when it comes to how to put makeup on. Some girls were taught by their mothers and others just experimented with their friends until they got it right. But have you ever wondered how to put makeup on the right way? There are a lot of different techniques when it comes to putting on makeup; the hard part is trying find what's good for you. But before you learn the different techniques you need to have the basic parts down. Here's a step by step guide to help you put makeup on correctly.

Foundation

Finding the right color for your skin is crucial when it comes to the foundation. The purpose of using foundation is so you get an overall even tone, along with covering unwanted blemishes. Usually you want to find a color that is slightly darker than your skin tone for a natural looking glow. It's key to make sure it is not noticeably darker.

Applying foundation is very important this is the base of your makeup. If you don't put it on properly it could come out uneven and blotchy. Whether you have powder or liquid foundation, you always want to use a brush. Many people use their hands when applying foundation but the point isn't to rub in the foundation but to have it lightly cover your face. If you use liquid concealer use your finger to dab it on key components of you face: cheeks, forehead, chin and nose. After this take a big makeup brush and smooth it in using a circular motion. This should give you an even glow to your skin.

Bronzer

Bronzer is optional, but if you are looking for that healthy tan look, gently sweep this over your face with a big brush.

Eyes

This is where you can have fun! There are all sorts of things that you can do for eyes. You usually always want to have three different but similar colors on the eye. The first step is putting primer or even foundation over the eyelid to make it one color.

Natural look:

For a more natural look you'll want to use more neutral colors like light browns or greens even.



Applying Makeup can be so easy with Perfectly Contoured Professional Makeup Brushes. Use the Perfect Size, Shape and Width to become a Master at Makeup in no time. How you apply your Makeup is just as important as the colors you choose.

Courtesy of beauty store

Step 1: After priming your eyelid, pick out three neutral colors that would look good together.

Step 2: Get an eye shadow brush (never use your finger and even the little q-tip things that come with them aren't the best, a brush is much better) Make sure that there is not too much eye shadow on the brush, sometimes lightly blowing on it helps.

Step 3: With the lightest shade you will want to go to the very top of where your brow bone begins, making sure that it's even on both sides.

Step 4: With the second shade you will mostly want to say in the eyelid, don't go as far up.

Step 5: Now you have your darkest and last shade. For this you want to go up to the top of the brown bone and gently sweep it right underneath, just as far as you went for the first shade. Make sure to blend it in, and it may look weird at first, but you're not finished!

Step 6: With the same color go to the very edge of your eyelid right by your lashes and sweep that color along there as well. Now you are ready for the eyeliner!

Step 7: You can either use your darkest shade of eye shadow or a pencil you have that you like. Gently make a thin line on the top eyelid, and then do the same for the bottom.

Keep in mind that this doesn't have to be with just neutral colors, you can do the same thing with darker colors. This is really how to do the smokey eye, just in a neutral way. The best colors to use for a dramatic eye include white, light gray or silver, and very dark gray or black.

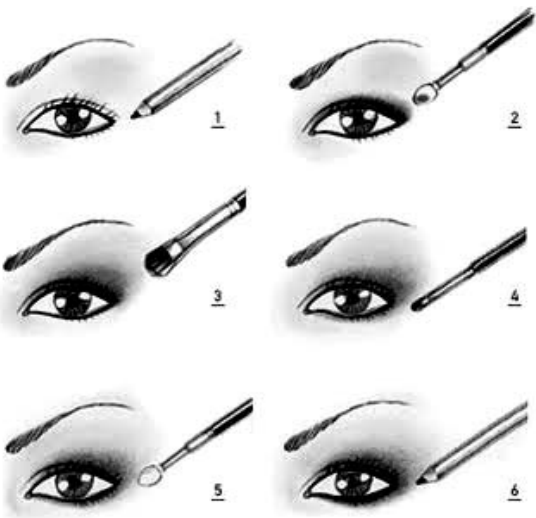
Cheeks

Find the right shade of blush to use and gently sweep it over your cheek bone. After this take either your bronzer or a darker shade of blush that has some glitter in it and put it just above where you put your blush. This will highlight your face.

Lips

Your last step, lips! You'll want to find the right shade once again for your skin, whether thats in lip gloss or lipstick. The best thing to do before applying any lip gloss or stick is moisturize. If it's with chap-stick or what have you, just make sure you use something. If you have lip liner gently go along the edges of your lips and then just simply add the gloss or the lipstick.

Now you are done, go out and enjoy your day! Walk with confidence knowing that you look great!



Courtesy of eyeshadow blog spot



Overheards!

“Sometimes you need to do a line.” - Brian O’Connell. Talking about “Autocad” in Computer Integrated Math.

“Let’s do lines together Bridget.” - Mrs. Kucera, talking about layout design.

“I put lead in your mom’s toys.” - Gorden Fenn

“Yes Donovan, it’s caca.” - Matt Pappas

“If I got splashed with horse pee I’d be pissed!” - Hannah Lonstein

“I would love to be a pregnant guidance counselor!” - Gabby Chesney

“You can only come to my house again if you promise not to rape me.” - Loren Couse

“One time I took too many of those and I got the shits.” - Emma Smith

“My dad called me a slut.” -Alyssa Johnson “Well... he was probably right.”- Shauna Horsley

“I get so excited when you talk about hard wood.”- Jon Bromley

“Hannah, we were talking about you when we were talking about the fetus.” - Hannah Allen

“And then we talked about Farmville for over an hour. It was sick.” - Andy Southworth (In a hot tub accompanied by Tony Limauro.)

“Maybe she’s one of those people who will have a baby on the toilet.”- Hannah Lonstein

“It has to be long, solid and round.” - James Thibault

Come to the holiday dance to spread your holiday cheer on Friday, December 18th in the MPR.



There will be music, dancing, beverages and food.
Dance starts at 7pm



Support the ORHS Chorus and Band at the HOLIDAY CONCERT Monday, December 21st at 7pm in the Auditorium
See your friends perform their hearts out!



Upcoming Concerts



(Dec. 9th) Switchfoot – Paradise Rock Club

(Dec. 13th) Arctic Monkeys with Screaming Females – House of Blues Boston

(Dec. 19th) David Archuleta – House of Blues Boston

(Dec. 26th-28th) Mighty Mighty Bosstones – House of Blues Boston

(Jan 6th) Passion Pit – House of Blues Boston

(Jan. 15th) Rascall Flats – Mohegan Sun Arena

(Jan 26th) Shinedown – House of Blues Boston

(Feb. 13th) Tegan and Sara – Orpheum Theater

(Feb. 24th)Michael Franti and Spearhead – TD Garden

(Feb. 24th) John Mayer – TD Garden

(Mar. 11th) Jay- Z – TD Garden

(Mar. 11th) Young Jeezy – TD Garden

(Mar. 19th) Michael Buble – DCU Center



Pictures courtesy of Google Images

Album Releases

December 15th

Jamie Foxx – Body

Alicia Keys – The Element of Freedom

Lady Gaga – The Fame Monster

Lil Wayne – Rebirth

Shiny Toy Guns – Girls Le Disko

Robin Thicke – Sex Therapy

December 22nd

Mary J. Blige – Stronger

January 1st

Christina Milian – Christina Milian

Carni Wilson – For The First Time

January 5th

Katherine McPhee – Unbroken

January 12th

Monica – Still Standing

OK Go – Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky

Omarion – Ollusion

Ringo Starr – Y Not

Vampire Weekend – Contra

January 26th

Chamillionare – Venom

Jason Castro – Jason Castro

Spoon- Transference

Three 6 Mafia – Laws of Power



Pictures courtesy of Google Images



Anna Reed
Features Writer

Pizza Review - “Two Slices and a Coke” - Mroz

The bubbling cheese crackles and melts on top of a luscious bed of piping hot tomato sauce, molding together with a thick, chewy crust; browned and perfectly fire-roasted. The smell tickles my nose, teasing my senses. My mind starts to day dream thinking of the perfect slice of cheese pizza; pizza grease slowly dripping down from the tip of the slice onto my paper plate. Steam starts to rise from the slice, twisting through the cold fall air. I can’t control myself anymore; I must have this piece of pizza.

There are over 60,000 pizza parlors in the United States. With all those choices, where should you go to get a great slice? Based on a rigorous list of criteria, here’s a list of local pizza joints, and how they stack up.



Durham House of Pizza ★★★★★

Downtown Durham
When you think ‘Pizza’ in Durham, you automatically think of DHOP. The classic mom and pop pizza joint has a feel-good atmosphere that matches their great pizza. Not only is their cheese pizza to die for, they are always having great deals for students to save you a couple bucks.[Try this out!](#) Their Mediterranean Pizza is one of the best with artichoke hearts, tomato, Feta cheese, and other great flavors from the Mediterranean.



Wildcat Pizza ★★★★★

Downtown Durham
Although the restaurant is a little outdated, there is nothing old fashioned about their pizza! With a nice, sturdy crust, and gooey cheese, Wildcat’s definitely a contender if you’re looking for an authentic slice of cheese.[Try this out!](#) Wildcat’s Greek White pizza will take your taste buds across the world, but still keep you in the spirit of a great slice of cheese pizza.



Gepetto’s Pizza ★★★

Newmarket
Gepetto’s Pizza is HOT! HOT! HOT! – Literally. Their pizza’s so fresh coming out of the oven, it burned my mouth! Gooey Cheese and a sauce power packed with flavor made their slice of cheese mouth-watering.[Try this out!](#) Their barbecue pizza is a crowd favorite power packed with flavor.



Pizza Spinners ★★★★★

Lee Traffic Circle
Pizza Spinners may be tucked away in the small Lee Traffic Circle Plaza, but they pack a lot of punch when it comes to their pizza. Their slice of cheese would have been perfect if it wasn’t so salty. Their crust is the right amount of crunch and chew that will make your mouth water.[Try this out!](#) Looking for a healthy option? Pizza Spinners Veggie Supreme is packed with veggies that’ll make you feel better about eating pizza.



Joe’s New York Pizza ★★★★★

Newington
A tiny nook next to a furniture store and a tux place, Joes New York has a unique way of going about pizza that’s not so typical for New Hampshire. The classic New York Style melts in your mouth with just enough grease to remind you that you’re eating pizza. Make sure to ask them to crisp your slice up in the oven, it makes the difference![Try this out!](#) Joe’s Buffalo Chicken Pizza will have you begging for more with a zing of heat!



School Pizza ★★

ORHS Cafe
If you are dying of hunger, go ahead and get this pizza. If you have ANY other choice, choose the alternative. Not only is it difficult to buy the pizza with the crowded lunch lines, but it’s really not that great. The crust’s too gooey, and the cheese tastes artificial. It’s a cheap piece of pizza if there’s nothing else. [Try this out!](#) Tired of Cheese, try a slice of their Veggie or Pepperoni!



Millo’s Pizza ★★★★★

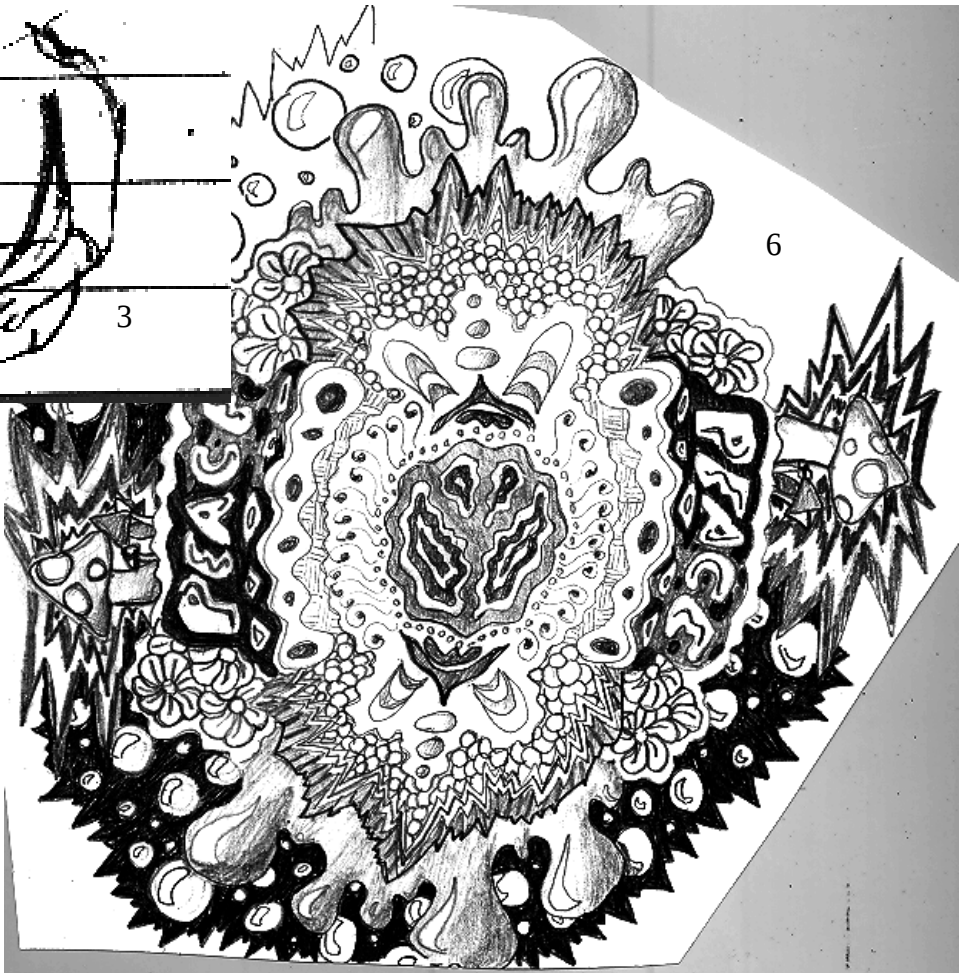
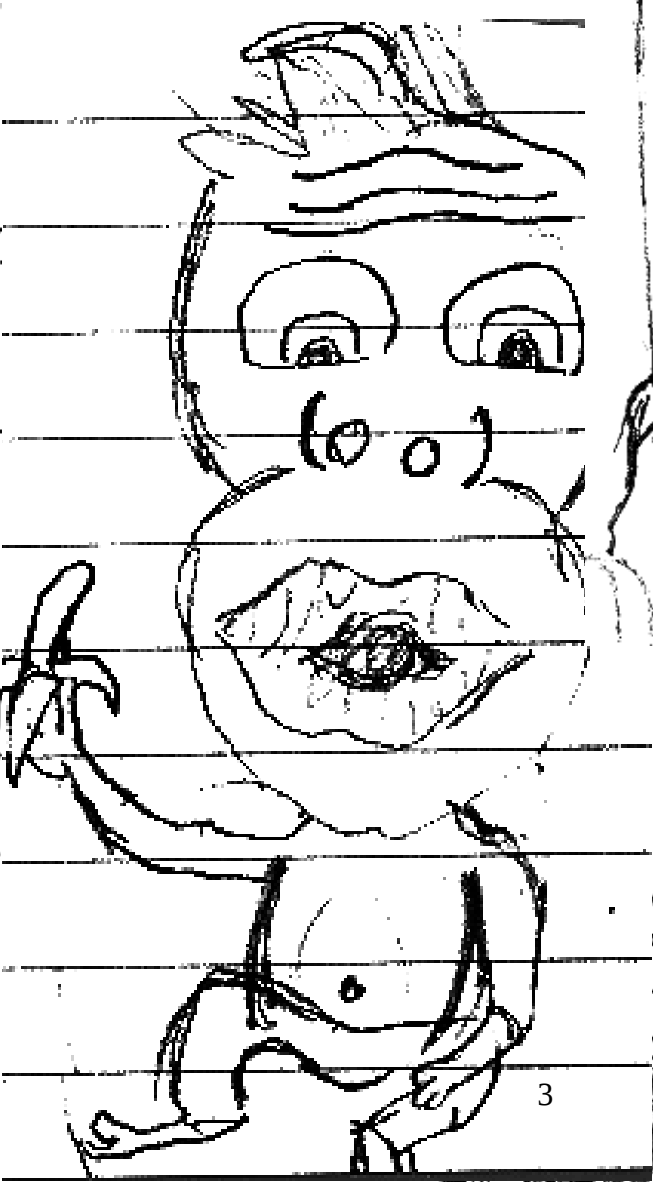
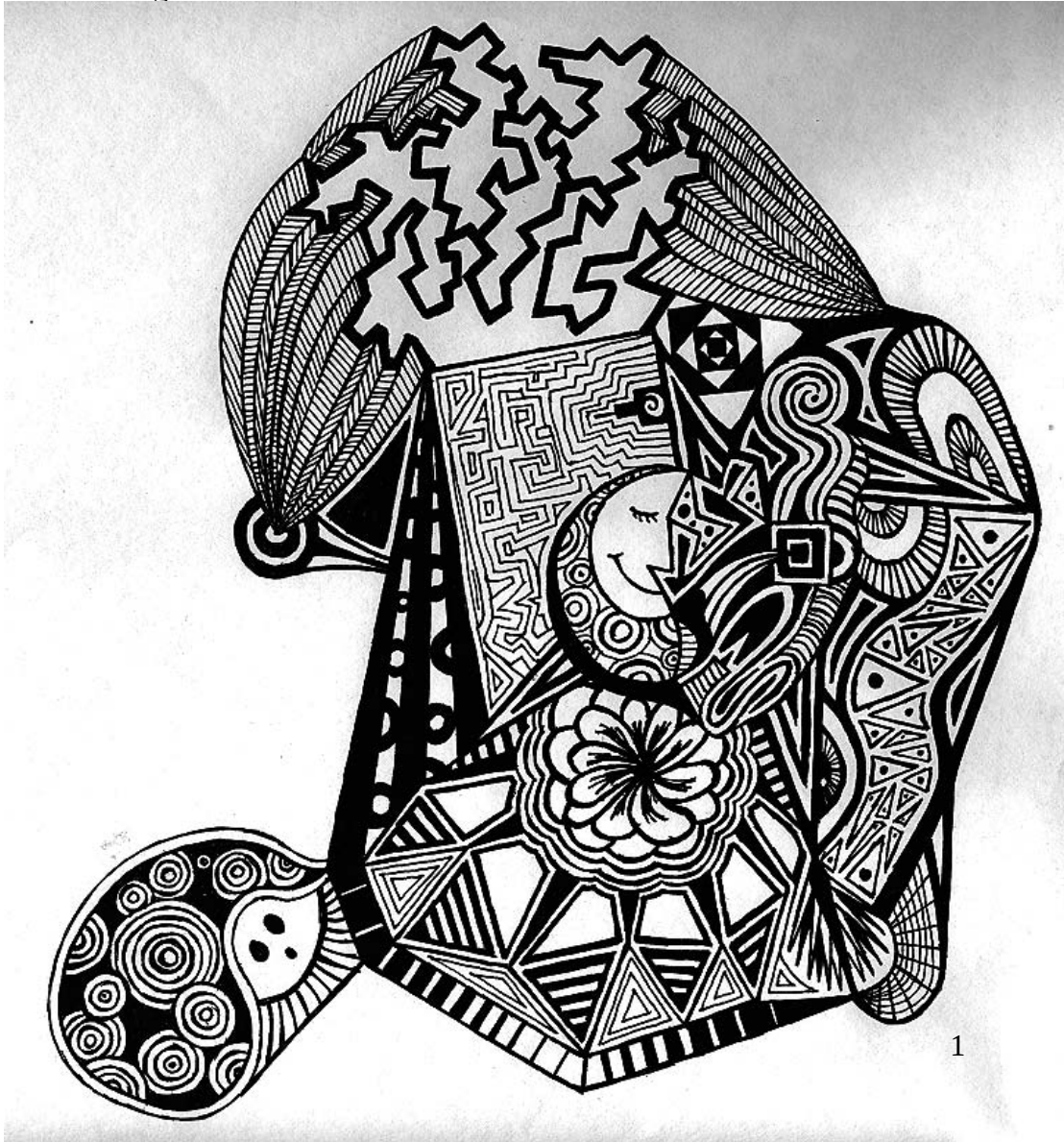
Barrington
A relatively new pizza parlor shines at their pizzas! Their cheese is pretty average, but still delicious; not too much grease, and a delightfully chewy crust. Their specialty pizzas on the other hand are where they really shine.[Try this out!](#) Shrimp Scampi Pizza. Sounds strange, but is absolutely mouth-watering!

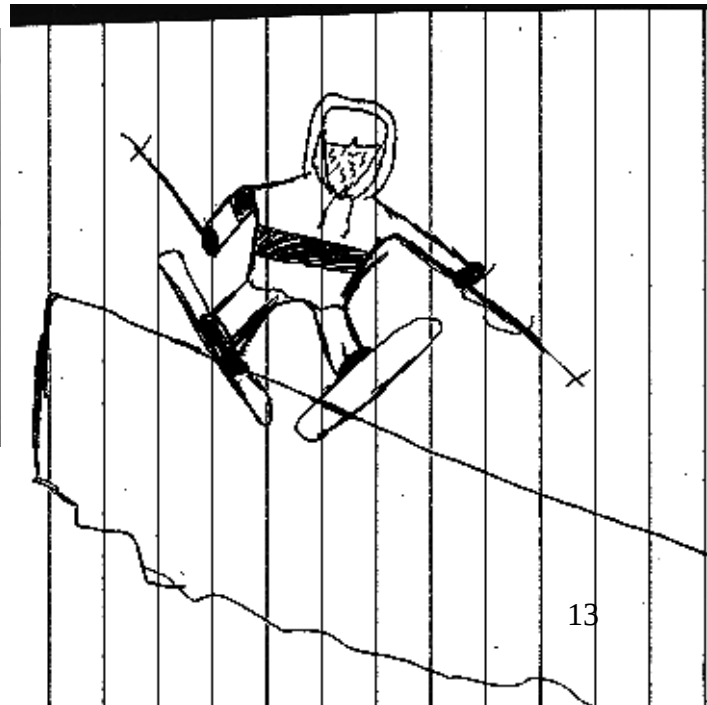
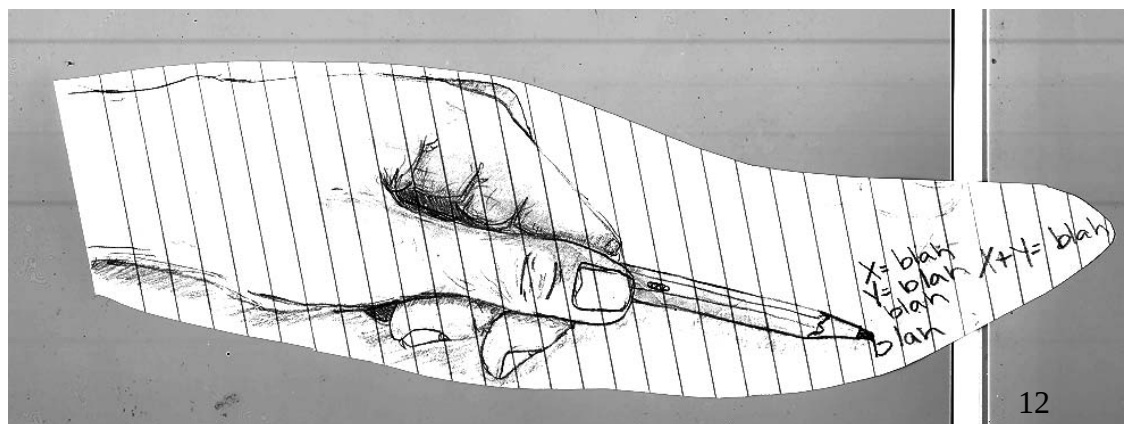
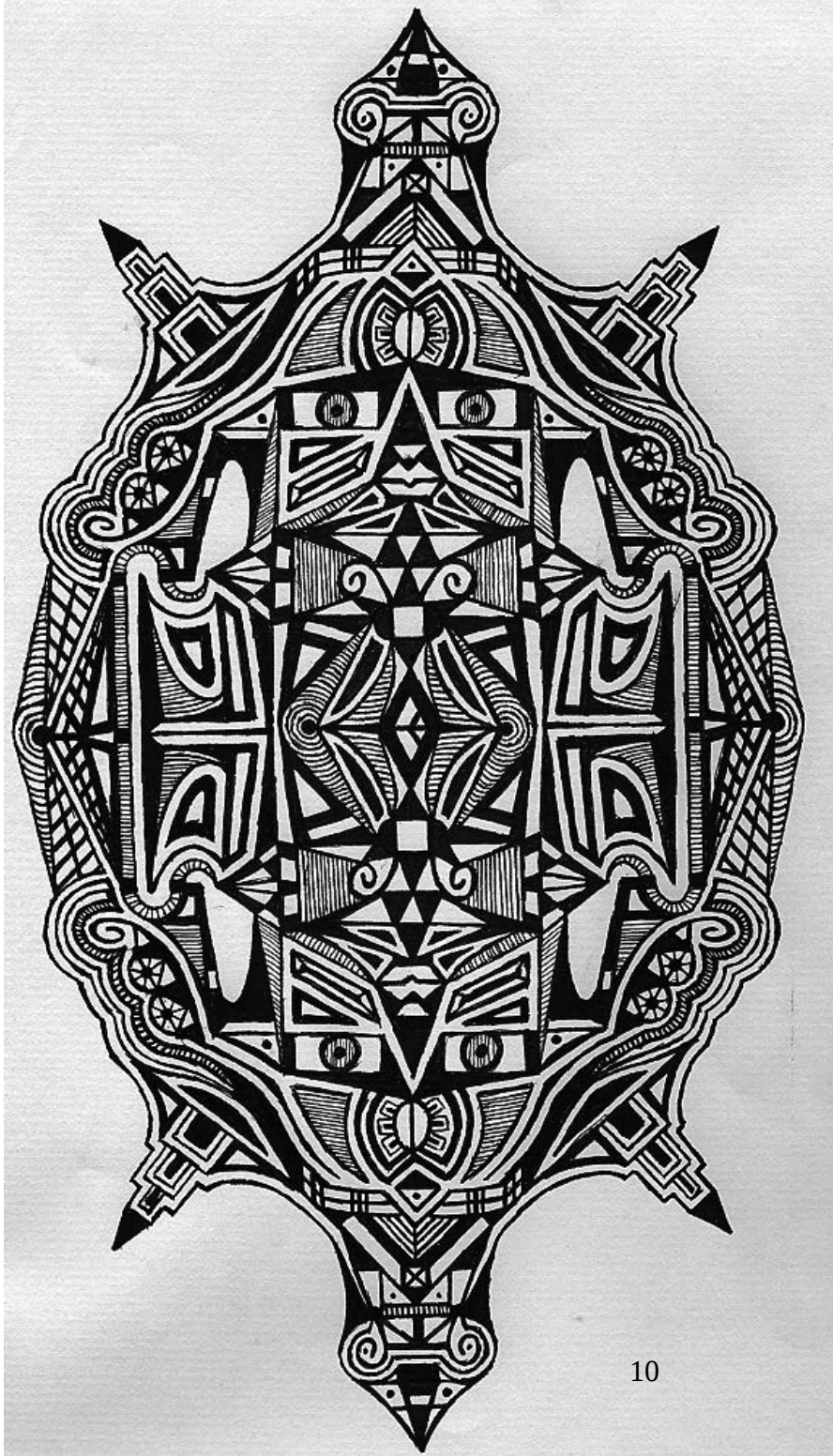
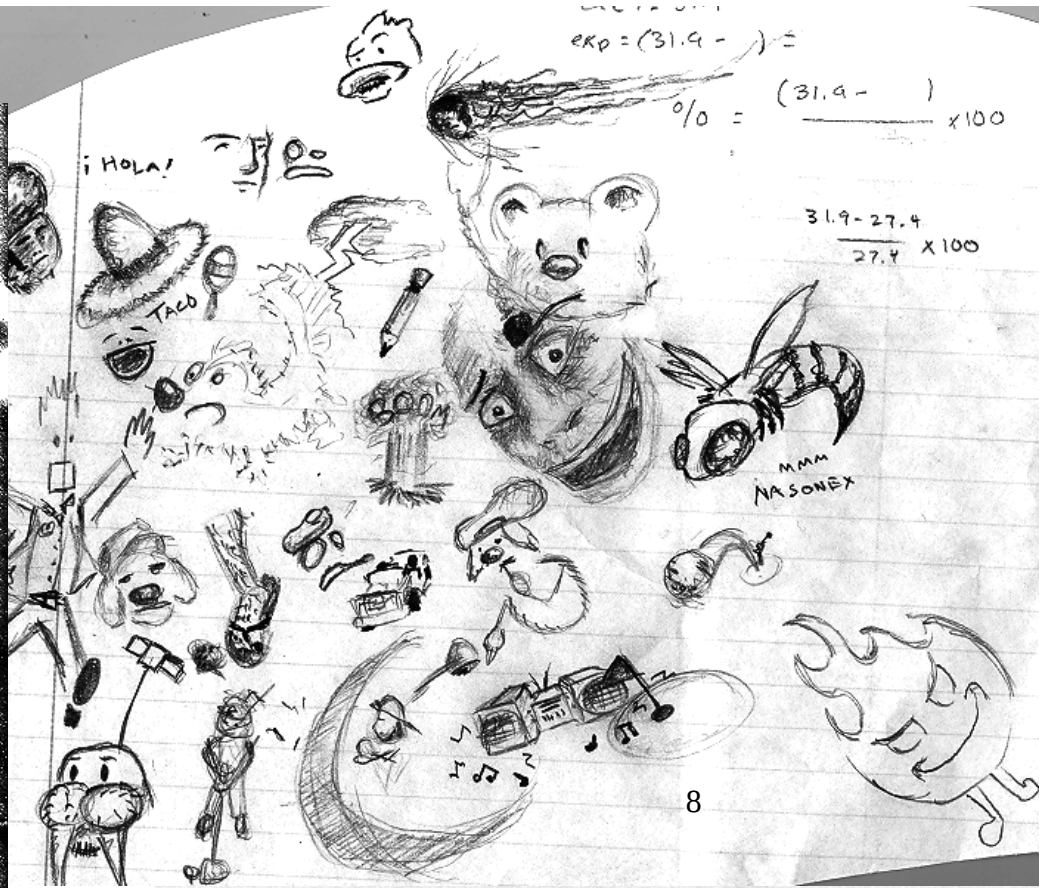
Disagree? Send a letter to the Editor explaining your reasoning!



The Doodles of Oyster River

Everyone does it when they're bored, well maybe not everyone but a fair amount of students. What am I talking about? Doodling of course; I know when I'm bored in class I let the drawings flow. Doodling stimulates your mind so keep doing it. Don't let teachers tell you that it is bad to do, because that is false. Obviously there is a time and place for everything, for example doodling during a final exam might not be a good idea. Although doodling while you listen to a teacher talk is perfectly acceptable. It is proven that kids of our generation are much better at multi-tasking than adults. So here they are; a wonderful collection of Oyster River doodles. These are all drawn by the brilliantly artistic and creative students at Oyster River High School.





The Doodlers:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Timmy Short | 8. Connor D' Amours |
| 2. Tommy McDonnell | 9. Tommy McDonnell |
| 3. Joseph Fletcher | 10. Timmy Short |
| 4. Nate Drogseth | 11. Andrew Berube |
| 5. Ray Finkle | 12. Austin Alphonse |
| 6. Georgia Borner | 13. Jason Rubenstein |
| 7. Alex Walnicki | |

Horoscopes



Aquarius January 20 – February 18
A walk in the woods you will take and lost you will become. Looks to the sky to find your way out of the dense trees that have enclosed you.



Pisces February 19 – March 20
Time is going to be an issue for you this holiday season. After missing the sales on Black Friday, you will take your time actually getting to the stores. It’s up to you to get all your gifts in time, or none you will receive.



Aries March 21 – April 19
Watching Cash Cab on the Discovery Channel will be a help for the surprise trip that you’re parents are going to give you to NYC.



Taurus April 20 – May 20
The dreidle will spin in your favor this month; Ethan Hotchkiss will offer you candy from the back of his van!



Gemini May 21 – June 20
When you go to Dunkin’ Donuts you will win a free hot chocolate, but then spill it all down your shirt.



Cancer June 21 – July 22
The plow truck will completely clear your driveway before you will even have time to shovel.



Leo July 23- August 22
Your cat will pee on your bed but when you change your sheets; your cat will then leave a dead chipmunk on your pillow. You need to show your cat whose boss!



Virgo August 23 – September 22
You’ll hear the tick tock on the clock but your party won’t stop when you have an awesome New Years.



Libra September 23 – October 22
You will get caught peeing on a building and receive an ISS. Find somewhere else to pee next time...



Scorpio October 23 – November 21
David Isenberg will get mad at you and kick you in the shins.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21
When Don Maynard is out of his office you will be able to sneak in and steal some of his candy. If he catches you, pretend to cry. He falls for it every time.



Capricorn December 22 – January 19
You will encounter Charlie the Unicorn in your travels this vacation.



Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer

Passion for Fashion

Many people have passed by the junior core and have smelled the delicious food being made in Mrs. Kishbaugh’s room, but did you know that there isn’t just food being whipped up in there? There are many students in that classroom who are sewing, and stitching up masterpieces like sleek dresses and fashionable tops. By taking these courses these students are preparing themselves for success in the fashion world and maybe the runway someday.

There are four possible classes to take at Oyster River if you are interested in fashion. There is fashion design, clothing 1 and 2, and also there is an advanced clothing class for students who stand out and are working to go into the fashion business. These classes teach sewing techniques and how construct a garment.

“It really teaches you the nitty-gritty techniques and methods of sewing that most people don’t know. You learn to sew all different types of seams, buttons, and how to maneuver around tricky situations like the “invisible stitch” I’ll know for the future how to properly mend something if it rips, and how to follow a pattern without screwing up...which is surprisingly easy to do.” Rachel Chiodo said. A senior at Oyster River in clothing class.

There have been a number of students who have excelled in the area of fashion at Oyster River. But in the past 10 years there have been two students who have gone on to attend the Fashion Institute in New York City (FIT). These two individuals are John Eustace and Katie Evans. Eustace attended this school majoring in International Fashion Business. Evans majored in design and after continued on into working for a high end custom lingerie company. Abby Wade is another student from Oyster River attended fashion school. She went to Colorado State, FIT in NYC and FIDM in LA.



Hannah Nelson working on a cute dress in clothing class.



Sally’s dress that she made at the Newbury School of Design in Boston over the summer.



Brenna D’Amours using a sewing machine during clothing class.

Currently there are students in the school who are hoping to succeed in the fashion world in the future. Junior Sally Pollard has been interested in fashion ever since she was very young. “I always liked looking nice and dressing up,” she says. She would also enjoy looking at fashion magazines and seeing what everyone was wearing.

This previous summer, Pollard attended the Newbury School of Design in Boston. She made a dress which turned out to be her favorite garment she has made. She also learned about the techniques of a fashion designer and how to draw and plan out their designs.

Pollard is one of the students who have excelled greatly through the schools programs. She has taken clothing 1 and clothing 2 and plans to take fashion design and advanced clothing next semester, along with many art classes that have helped for the fashion eye. Attending fashion school is something she would like to do after college. Eventually she hopes to start her own line of clothing and have her own business. “I want to see people wearing my clothes just walking down the street,” she says.

The clothing program at Oyster River is taken seriously and it has helped a couple students follow their dreams to the fashion industry. If you are interested in just learning the basics of sewing or you want to pursue the profession of a designer. Take into consideration that this class can really teach you a lot that can help you in the future. Who knows, maybe we will all be wearing *your* designs someday. Take the time to learn you could have a passion for fashion!



Anna Reed
Features Writer

Ready to Roll?...Not so fast. Are you prepared out there on the road?

You're fresh out of the DMV with your brand new license gripped between your fingers. The laminated plastic is still warm from the machine. Sitting behind the wheel, you are ready to explore the open road. You've passed all your tests, gone through Driver's Ed, but how much do you really know? Will you be prepared when disaster strikes?

A survey was passed around ORHS; participants were asked numerous questions regarding car maintenance, and how much knowledge they really had

about their car. 72% of survey takers knew how to change a tire, where, thankfully, 90% of them knew where their spare tire was in their car. 20% didn't know how to contact their Insurance Company if they were ever in an accident. Many of this information were provided through Driver's Education, but that doesn't mean that everyone was paying attention. "People are really uneducated when it comes to their car," Senior Margot Popecki complains as she talks about her fellow drivers. "You come out of Driver's Education able to drive, but no one knows anything about the car they're driving!" After most people are finished with their Driver's Education class, keys in one hand and license in the other, they are more preoccupied in driving than sitting down and learning about their car

Disaster can strike at any time, especially coming into the winter months; hazards like black ice and blinding snow storms can pose a real problem with new drivers, and even experienced ones. Having a

kit of emergency items in your car is important if you are ever in an emergency situation. "I keep a kit in my car at all times" explains Senior Hannah Allen, "It's all kept in a cute water bottle, so it's compact, and easy to store." Stores like Target and Wal-Mart carry small emergency kits that have all that you need, but are easy to store in the smallest of cars. But a spare flashlight and pocket knife aren't the only important things for car safety. Having the proper tools to change a tire is the most important car accessory. "You can have the spare, but if you don't have proper

"You can have the spare, but if you don't have proper tools, you aren't going to be able to do anything"

-Junior Emily Behrendt

tools, you aren't going to be able to do anything," says Junior Emily Behrendt. Want to know where your spare tire is kept? Check your manual. Want to know where the jack is so you can jack your car up to change that spare tire? You're going to have to dig around for a while. Stores like Pep Boys and AutoZone are a good place to get the proper tools like the Jack, and a good wrench to successfully change your flat.

After you are prepared with supplies, the only thing left to do is practice. Art Teacher Tim Lawrence spent a lot of time practicing driving with his father. "He would take me to an abandoned area and he would just let me drive. It was the best place to try everything out because you're not going to get into an accident." Practicing with the elements in a controlled area is a great way to get experience with emergency situations without actually getting into an accident. Living in New Hampshire, you have to deal with the elements, and not all new drivers know what to do with rugged snow falls and patches of slippery ice, so practicing will keep you prepared when you're out on the real road.

When all else fails, or you still feel like you need extra protection, spend the money on a membership with AAA or any other Emergency Roadside Service company. "Sometimes, you will need to change a tire, and it's just not safe," Lawrence explains, "it's much easier to leave it to the professionals." For a small monthly fee, you can have roadside help whenever you need it, so for whatever jam you've found yourself in, you can get out of it with the help of professionals.

So all though people feel that many new drivers aren't prepared for the real world of driving, there are so many things that can be done to get you prepared. With just a little reading up on your car manual, a trip to the auto part store for some supplies, and a monthly fee, you can feel a little safer when you're out on the road.

Things To Keep In Your Car

Cell Phone with charger: You shouldn't be talking while driving, but if you are ever in an emergency situation, a cell phone is critical. Never hesitate to call 911 if you need to.

First Aid Kit: This one's pretty self-explanatory. You should always have first aid on hand; you never know when you're going to need a band aid or an ice pack.

Battery less Flashlight: Regular flashlights work fine, but if you are in a situation without extra batteries, you'll be in trouble. You can find inexpensive battery less flashlights that will always work.

\$20 in small bills and change: You will always need to have change on hand if you are going through an unexpected toll booth. Most people these days have an E-Z Pass, but just in case, carry some extra cash.

Non-perishable food and water bottles: If you are ever stuck in a position, you need to keep yourself alive; especially with the snow we get here in New Hampshire. Keep food and water in your car just in case of extreme situations.

Warning Lights, flares, or hazard triangles: If you are ever doing anything on the side of the street, you need a warning for other drivers, EXPECIALLY if it's at night. Carrying road flares, or warning lights gives a clear warning to other drivers. If you are unsure in any situation, call **Roadside Assistance**. They know what they're doing more than you do.

Jack and Lug Wrench: If and when you have to change your tire you need the proper equipment. Jack and lug wrenches are the essential tools to successfully change your tire, and get back on the road fast.

Pen and pad of paper: If you are ever in an accident, it is important to get the other persons information for your Insurance Company. Write down everything. Also handy for a long car ride, everyone loves to play hangman.

Extra Blankets: It's cold in NH, and it will get colder if you find yourself stranded for a couple days. Carry heavy blankets to keep you and your passengers warm.

Small Shovel and Ice Scrapers: In New Hampshire, we get a lot of snow. Make sure to have something to dig yourself out of situations if you are ever snowed in. You don't want to be stranded in your parking space after school because you don't have an ice scraper, and there's a quarter inch sheet of ice on your windshield.

Jumper cables: A simple tool that is a necessity. If your battery dies, you can't rely on others to have jumper cables. So always store a pair in your trunk.

All-In-One Kits!

Auto Aid in a Bottle



Retailer: L.L. Bean
Cost: \$29.95
Available at L.L. Bean stores or www.llbean.com

All your essentials for car safety in the convenience of a small, portable water bottle. The 32 oz. bottle is durable, so if it starts rolling around in your back seat, the contents inside will still be in tact. Includes: Batteryless flashlight, utility knife, screwdriver, digital tire gauge (batteries included), safety flasher, reflective vest and poncho. The water bottle is made of virtually indestructible, BPA-free copolymer and won't retain flavor.

Retailer: AAA
Cost: Varies, \$48.40 on Amazon
Available at different stores, www.amazon.com, or AAA

The super extensive kit with all you will need. This kit from AAA has everything; with one purchase you're ready to go.

Includes: AAA double-sided carrying bag, AAA emergency care guide, AAA membership brochure, heavy duty booster cable (8-gauge, 10-foot length), a 250-psi air compressor with gauge, hand-charged dual LED flashlight, a reflective triangle, a pair of dimpled work gloves, emergency poncho, a roll of duct tape, a pair of pliers with vinyl grips, a flat head screwdriver, a Phillips head screwdriver, a utility knife, an emergency whistle, a bungee cord, 2 shop cloths, 10 cable ties, and a 45 piece first-aid kit.



AAA 73 Piece AdventurerRoad Assistance Kit



Apollo 54 piece Roadside Tool Set

Retailer: Target
Cost: \$52.00
Available at Target stores or www.target.com

This multi-purpose safety kit is jam packed with all your essentials, with the bonus of it all being pink! It's the perfect car accessory for all the girly girls. A portion of the proceeds for this product will be donated to further breast cancer awareness initiatives.

Includes: 12V car vacuum cleaner, a compact emergency tool kit, compact air compressor for quick tire inflation, jumper cables, and warning signs. All the tools are heat treated, and plated with chrome to resist corrosion.





Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer

Did You Hear About Samantha and Hannah?

Most of you may know that our school has a reputation for spreading rumors. We even have the nickname “Oyster Rumor.” We (Samantha Ackerman and Hannah Lonstein) created a rumor to test out this theory. During this experiment we found how people thrive on the insecurities of others.

Some of you may have heard a rumor being talked about us around the school. Well sorry to disappoint you guys, but that was a fake rumor. We made it up strictly as an experiment. For those of you who may not have heard, the fake rumor was that we made out at one of our friends birthday party. This may come as a shock to some people or maybe not. Either way, the rumor was spread successfully throughout the school.

In order for this rumor to spread we told the Mouth of the River staff about our project and they started to talk about it amongst their different friend groups and from there it grew. We had the staff report back to us on what everyone was saying. We received conversations and were told about the different reactions people had to this rumor. We also made up a survey asking students and teachers about their views on the subject. From this information we uncovered the different points that make up “Oyster Rumor.”

At first many people were hesitant to believe that this was true. What we found interesting though was that when a source was mentioned even if the source was not reliable people became more open to believe. The closer you are to the person telling you the rumor the less you question it. Because your friend obviously got it from a reliable source, right? And from there the chain reaction starts. You say “I’ll only tell my close friends,” but your friends have other *close* friends and so on. In the end everyone knows and the rumor itself, fake or not, becomes true in the eyes of the high school.

The fact of the matter is you don’t know if it’s really true. Going into this experiment we were expecting to be confronted by people, especially our friends. But to our surprise only *one* person confronted us about the rumor being spread. This confrontation was indirect at first. This individual talked to us after confronting one of our good friends to try and confirm the rumor. It seems as though people would rather avoid talking to the subject of discussion if possible.

In the survey we asked people if they would confront someone about a rumor they heard.



Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Some people said that it really wasn’t any of their business and unless it was one of their friends or the rumor was about them, they wouldn’t ask or confront the person about it. So how do you know it’s true? Unless you personally ask them yourselves you really don’t know. People can say, “Oh, I talked to Hannah and Samantha about it, they said it happened,” but you don’t know how true that really is. If you aren’t able to ask the person if the rumor is true, is it morally correct to spread or even talk about the rumor with other people behind their backs?

Since little confrontation was made people start making up their own parts to the story and making sense of the situation in their own minds. People start making assumptions as to how the situation came about now the questions is why? “Why would Hannah and Sam make out?” This is where the assumptions start. Some said, “They just want attention” while others make up their own theory about the situation. From here it only goes on. It’s human nature to want to know about someone else’s embarrassing moments; it makes us feel more secure about ourselves and know more people are on our side, and against the individual(s). It’s interesting to see how far someone else will go to publicize someone else’s humiliation.

95% of the people we surveyed said they don’t believe everything they hear, but it seems that people still find themselves judging because there’s always that “what if?” People’s perspectives change sometimes without realization. For this specific rumor after

hearing reactions from peers some became jealous and competitive. They feel the need to outdo and put attention on them by exceeding the previous event.

“Oyster Rumor” was a nickname given to us and we have proven ourselves true to that name. As high schoolers we’re curious and interested in the lives of others, but why? Why do we *care*? Why can’t we just live our own lives, instead of having to be involved and comment on the lives of our peers? We can all relate to this, we’ve all heard and spread rumors sometimes without noticing. A simple story between two friends can easily be distorted negatively by an innocent bystander. Overall the fact of the matter is a rumor can be avoided. You can justify it however you want, but whether or not it spreads like *wildfire* is up to you.



OH MY GOSH!



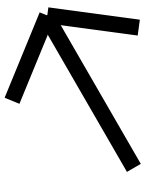
Did you hear that...



The Rumor Mill...



Guess what I heard!?



Really!?





Hannah Allen
Op-Ed Writer

Letter From the Editor: Things That Drive Me Crazy

In the past 15 months since I got my license, I have recognized some extremely annoying things on the road. Driving really isn't that difficult or technical, there isn't much that is "hard" about driving. But for some reason there are some extremely unintelligent people on the road. I am all for drivers sharing the road with bikers and walkers, but when walkers and bikers aren't smart, I get mad.

1. People who leave their blinkers on forever: Seriously, is it that hard to turn off your blinker? The most annoying place where people don't turn their blinker off is the 6W exit on the way back to Durham from the mall. It is so stressful to drive behind someone who has their blinker on that isn't turning. Not to mention it can be dangerous if you think they are turning but they really aren't.
2. People who don't use their blinkers: Is it that hard to actually use your blinker? It's so annoying when people just hit their brakes and turn without any warning at all. It's dangerous, obnoxious and lazy.
3. People who drive without their lights on in the dark and/or rain. It's the law to have your headlights on a half hour before dusk and after dawn, so why don't more people get in trouble for violating that law? I absolutely hate driving and coming around a corner and having a car coming right at me that I can barely see. I pass so many people who drive in the rain without their lights. When your windshield wipers are on, your lights should be on. When it's dark, or even slightly dark, just put your lights on. It's not that hard. It's even more annoying when I pass police officers in the rain and they don't have their lights on. Seriously? Aren't you supposed to be setting an example for other drivers?
4. Walkers/bikers who go the wrong way: Bikers go with traffic, walkers go against traffic. It seems like such a simple concept, but apparently for some people it's too hard to grasp. Of course there are times when you should switch sides if going around a sharp/dangerous corner, but it's extremely dangerous and scary when people are going the wrong way.
5. Walkers/bikers who walk/bike at night without reflectors or lights (especially with dogs): My road is a fairly walked/biked road, and since I've gotten my license I've seen so many people walk/bike at night. Barely. Wear a reflector, bring a flashlight, it may not be the most fashionable thing in the world, but if it's a matter of safety it shouldn't matter.
6. Drivers and passengers that don't wear their seatbelts. Although the law in New Hampshire says that if you are 18 or older you don't have to wear your seatbelt, but just because you're 18 doesn't mean anything really changes. You may be 100% comfortable in the car with someone driving, but you don't know what other drivers are on the road. If you don't like wearing your seatbelt, remember this, if you are in an accident and you and three friends are in the car, not only are you putting yourself at more risk, but you are putting all of your friends at risk too.



Senior Emma Smith caught driving without her seatbelt in the senior parking lot



Someone driving obnoxiously slow for no reason at all

7. People who ride your butt even though you're going over the speed limit anyways. Seriously? If the person in front of you is already going 10 miles over the speed limit, there is absolutely no need to be right behind someone if they are already going over the speed limit.
 8. Red light runners. I am guilty for sometimes speeding up when the light turns yellow, but when it turns yellow and I am five cars back, I stop. I am astonished at how many people go through yellow lights, and even red lights. There are traffic lights for a reason.
 9. People who slow down way too slow before making a turn. Turning onto Mill Road off of Packers Falls is where I witness this the most. Slowing down before making a turn is good, and safe, but you don't have to go slower than a snail to be safe. I guess my complaint is really to just people who drive annoyingly slow no matter what. I understand the importance of driving slower at night, on a rainy day or if the roads are slippery, but seriously in the morning I want to get to school on time, and it's not cool to be stuck behind someone going 10 below all the way there.
 10. Bad mergers. People who don't let people merge, and people who don't know how to merge. When you are already on the highway and in the right lane and see someone trying to merge, move over to the left lane and let them on. It's so annoying when I have to wait for an opening in the right lane while the left lane is completely open. Not only is it annoying, but it's really dangerous too.
- So if you really want to tick me off, put your blinker on and don't let me merge onto the highway. Don't buckle up, and turn your headlights off after dark.*

On The Spot: What Makes You Mad While Driving?

- "I hate when people come to a four way stop and I was stopped first but then the person who just pulled up takes off and goes before me." -Greg Godfrey
- "The top 5 are people who drive well under the limit, people who pass in no passing zones, pedestrians who cross where there is no crosswalk, cyclists who don't obey traffic laws, and tailgaters." -Collin Lawson
- "When people are turning and they don't merge out of the lane at all so I can't get passed them." -Emily Ricker
- "When people leave their blinker on, especially on the way home from the mall, 6W." -Alexandra Sosnowski
- "When people stop too long while at stop signs and text." -Max Lapham
- "People who have a really loud bass and it shakes my car." -Judy Kucera
- "When people cut me off when I'm going like 30+ and they start off driving mad slow so I have to slam the brakes." -Ricky Owuor
- "Well I would have to say it's people that don't go fast enough. All you have to do is go the speed limit. There is no reason as to why you need to go under. If you miss your road then turn around. If your lost pull over, it's as simple as that." -Emily Busque

Things To Know While Driving

- Sixteen to twenty year olds are least likely to use safety belts than any other age group.
- Drivers and passengers who are sixteen to twenty years old are less likely to buckle up when under the influence of alcohol.
- If thrown out of a vehicle in a crash, your chances of being killed are 25 times greater than if you stay inside.
- Many prescription or over-the-counter drugs impair your ability to drive.
- Nearly 75% of drunk drivers involved in fatal collisions are not wearing their safety belts
- According to one study, a first-time drunk-driving offender has already driven drunk more than 80 times before being arrested
- The state of Wyoming is the deadliest state for drinking and driving, with just over 13 drunk-driving fatalities for every 100,000 people occurring each year. New York experiences the least amount of drunk-driving fatalities, with only 2.06 per 100,000 residents
- In 2007, nearly 3,200 young drivers (ages 15-20) were killed in motor vehicle crashes.
- Crashes involving young drivers are costly to society. The estimated economic cost of police-reported crashes involving drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 was \$40.8 billion in the United States in 2002 alone.
- <http://www.saferoads4teens.org/facts-about-teen-driving>
<http://www.monroecounty.gov/p/ts-SaveFriendContestFacts.pdf>
http://facts.randomhistory.com/2009/08/28_drunk-driving.html





Timmy Short
Op-Ed Writer

Letter From The Editor: Creative Opression

In my 12-plus years of schooling, I have on occasion been called intelligent, talented, and insightful. However, seemingly far more often I have been called lazy, unmotivated, and distractible. I tend to doodle in analytical classes, chat in the boring ones, and ignore my homework in all of them. Does that make me a slacker? According to this damned school system it does. What about the fact that *outside of class* I often play music or draw or throw pottery or write? Does that count for anything? Of course not. My GPA shows that I’m still a slacker, because all of our priorities are organized for us. It’s an outrage.

“Why are we learning this?” That’s the million-dollar question! And I swear if I hear a teacher respond with; “you’re learning how to learn” one more time, I might just sear out my eyeballs with a curling iron. Is that really the best answer a teacher can give? By the time a student graduates twelfth-grade they will have spent 18,720 hours at school. And that doesn’t even include homework or extracurriculars! Is it really reasonable to justify even a percentage of that time with the understanding that *we are learning how to learn*? I refuse to slave over perfecting my mathematical note-taking abilities after I have decided that I want to be an artist.

Pablo Picasso once said; “All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up”. For the past few months I have been an intern in an intro-to-art class, and it has only gone to strengthen my belief in a more balanced curriculum between what schools and universities consider core (a.k.a. important) subject and the arts. Humans are naturally creative, but at a young age public schools often strip them of that genetic by overly stressing the importance of rote learning; such as repetition and regurgitation of information. I have found that while in an art class, students struggle to come up with ideas and rely on others to provide inspiration, yet during a science lecture many of those same students prefer to do elaborate doodles. The creativity of these individuals is evident, however, they are asked to use their own imaginations so rarely that they feel alienated when the expectation is to be creative.

Admittedly, Oyster River is far less traditional than many schools in America, yet Principal Laura Rogers, a self-proclaimed advocate of the arts, acknowledges the discrepancy in priorities. “I think schools in general are a reflection of societal values and societal norms,” she says. “Statistically, the only subject area that has a direct correlation to how much money you make is math.” This may be true, but should students be forced to take extra math classes because of it? Should schools really be not only encouraging, but pressing their students to follow a certain path just because it may lead to a higher income? For too long, public schools have limited the average student’s exposure to the arts. “If a student is personally driven, they

should be allowed to pursue that,” says senior Marisa Kang. “Nothing should be able to hold you back.”

One reason for this warped emphasis can be attributed to the institution of higher education, specifically 4-year Universities. On average, American colleges require at least 3 years of both high school math and science, and that’s just the minimum. In comparison, those same colleges expect only one year of art, music *or* theater. These requirements may not cause a problem with students who plan to pursue careers in the sciences, but what about aspiring artists or musicians? A student may be a brilliant painter but if his GPA is dragged down by classes outside his interests he may be looked over by a traditional University due to the fact that good grades in art classes are seen as less important than good grades in, say, Trigonometry. But above all else, the downfall of the public school system is the report card. The large majority of high school students do care about becoming knowledgeable in classes that they truly enjoy. But when it comes to other courses their only motivation is to

memorize information in order to do well on tests, after which it will just be forgotten. “If it’s something that I’m really interested in, for example, an elective that I’m taking, then I’m motivated by learning itself,” says Michelle Mason. “However, if it’s a class that I have to take that I don’t necessarily like then it’s just for the grades.”

Did you hear that world? *It’s just for the grades*. And in case you were wondering (math teachers), they’re probably talking about you’re subject. And why, you ask, are they probably talking about your subject?

“Math is too much about repetition,” says Daniela Rossi. “A lot of kids get bored. There are just too many rules you can’t break.”

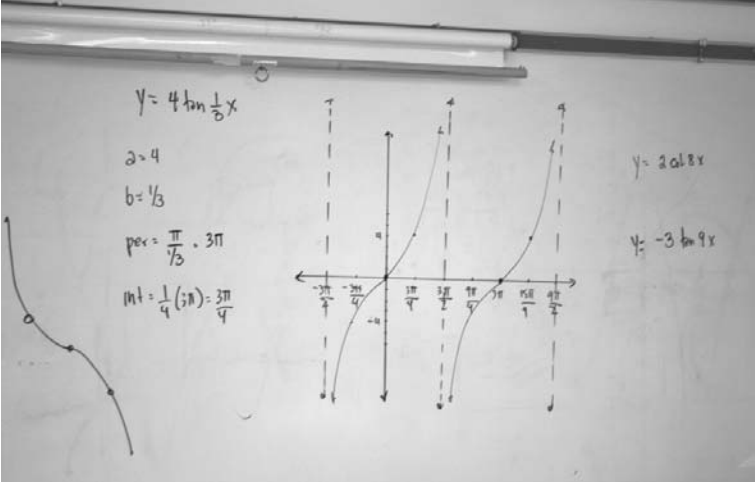
Precisely. Isn’t that what creativity is all about? Breaking rules? Pushing boundaries? Defying norms? In a word: absolutely. All those aspects of creativity are essential to both the learning and the growing process. And they most certainly cannot be found in most required high school classes. “In a lot of math, for example, A+B always equals C,” says art teacher Tim Lawrence. “Down here in the art room A+B can equal any other letter in the alphabet. I don’t need to do any critical thinking to finish an equation; I

just have to know the formula. In a painting, there are twelve million ways I could tweak it. It can never be totally done. That is critical thinking.”

Here at Oyster River we are still given creative opportunities far beyond the average teenager, so what must it be like for the others? A child’s creativity needs to be embraced, cultivated and expected. Imagination is the reason for all of our advances. How else can we expect to succeed as a society? In public school, art and music and drama are considered *electives*. It shouldn’t be so. It is subjects such as these from which we learn freedom, individuality and most importantly, feeling.



The walls in the art room are filled with color and art work; the aesthetic beauty of creativity. On the other hand, the boards of most math classrooms are bland,, depressing and covered in complex equations.



Response to Reader Surveys



Timmy Short
Op-Ed Writer

Dear readers,

In our reader surveys, numerous people indicated that they were offended by some of the headlines present in the first issue of *Mouth of the River*, specifically “B.O.N.G”. We, as a newspaper staff, as well as the school community as a whole, would like to remind our readers that in no way were we intending to condone marijuana usage. In that regard, we apologize. However, despite its controversy, the headline did an excellent job in getting the attention of the audience, which is ultimately our goal as journalists.

Another common complaint, which came distinctively from Oyster River students, was an objection to the ratio of Feature articles (such as “10 Questions with a Freshman” and “Teacher Features”) to more in-depth News or Op-Ed articles. The way our staff is broken up into departments allows us to create a more balanced number of articles in all fields of journalism, from sports to news to Q&A’s.

Also, many surveys called for more pictures in future *Mouth of the River* issues. Going forward, we will do our best to honor what our readers desire as long as we stay within our boundaries as journalists and hold true to the essence of a newspaper.

Thank you,
Timmy Short
Editor-In-Chief

Let us know what you think of this issue!
Write a letter to the editor!

Submit letters in person to Mrs. Kucera or any member of the Op-Ed department, or submit them by e-mail to jkucera@orcsd.org, or... send them by mail to Mouth of the River c/o Oyster River High School 55 Coe Drive Durham, NH 03824

Meet the MOR Staff

Advisor
Judy Kucera

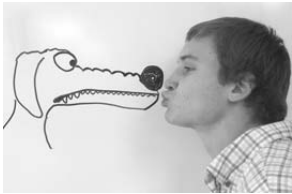
Editors-In-Chief
Timmy Short & Hannah Allen

News
Alex Buck
Ben Belanger
Erik Frid
Sara Usher

Features
Sam Ackerman
Hannah Lonstein
Anna Reed
Bridget Regan

Sports
Gabby Brodeur
Caitlin Olson
Josh Park

Op-Ed
Hannah Allen
Donovan Kelley
Timmy Short



Donovan Kelley
Op-Ed Writer

Before I begin I would like to clear the air for those of you who are not up to date with the slang terms of our times. I have been told that I have used certain words that have caused confusion for people. Here are a few slang words with their definitions and examples in common speech.

Steez – Is defined as style with ease. This term can be used in many different ways but is most common for a person and or group’s attire. If someone were to tell you that you have good steez, you should take it as a compliment; and a rather good one at that. It can also be used as a substitution for the word style in almost any situation.

Example – “When Tommy wears his Barack Obama Punahou High School jersey he has very good steez.”

“Wearing Ed Hardy apparel is not steezy at all”

Dank – Is a slang term used to describe a very enjoyable entity or situation. This is often used when talking about a delicious treat or drink. It can also be used to describe a very nice place or emotional state.

Example – “Dan had a really dank Mucho Mango iced tea to accompany his lunch.”

“It was rather dank that we got to sleep in late for junior testing.”

Dope – Is described as something that is very pleasing and or exciting. This word is often times used to describe something that is overwhelmingly cool. It can also be used to describe someone’s ability to excel in an activity.

Example – “Sonia’s BMW is absolutely dope.”

“Waldo is extremely dope at Mario Kart.”

Skater Steez

I don’t know about everyone else but I have had enough of this new skater fashion. Not just skateboarders in particular but snowboarders and skiers too. I don’t like telling people what to wear and what not to wear but this has gone on for far too long. There comes a point in everyone’s life when someone needs to tell you that you look ridiculous or have terrible steez. Believe me; I have gone through many phases of poor steez but never this out of control. So stop dressing like clowns and try to look appealing. Please; go back to Pacsun, return your XXXXL t-shirts and buy something that fits you. Seriously, it’s for all of us.

Tall Tees

I don’t get it guys. Not wearing something that is obviously too big for you just seems like a no-brainer to me. Can someone please explain to me why it is necessary to wear a t-shirt down to your knees? If you want to look that much



A perfect example of ‘Skater Steez’

bigger I think you have a better shot with being drawn and quartered. Seriously, this is starting to shock me more and more. As I’ve progressed through high school it’s become cooler and cooler to wear shirts that are far too big for you. Pretty soon these guys will literally be wearing dresses. Wearing dresses with jeans just isn’t steezy whatsoever. MC Hammer wore parachute pants and people thought that was cool for a while, I would like to see what their opinions are on those pants. It’s the same concept guys, just a different half of your body. I really do think you guys need to be more proportionate though. If you are going to wear a XXXXL t-shirt I suggest inflatable pants. You could wear some really nice oversized red dress shoes as well. Maybe to top it all off you could wear one of those cool Doctor Seuss hats. I think you already have hats covered though, which brings me to my next subject.

Baggage Hats – This is a very tough topic for me. I personally do not mind a large warm winter hat, but I used a very key word there. Winter is the word that I am referring to. If you are freezing in the dead of our rough New England winters I have no problem seeing anyone wear a large comfy hat outside. Senior Dan Tauriello wears baggage hats when it is cold outside; “I personally think they are steezy for appropriate weather,” he says. But when it comes to summertime I just purely don’t get it. Why would you even want to keep a large wool hat on top of your head in 90 degree weather? I would like to see what is going on inside those kids’ heads as they roll around on their boards in mid July. I can tell you one thing they wouldn’t be thinking: *Man it was a good choice to wear this hat; I would have been freezing otherwise!*

Vandalism

I can tell you one thing that is certain; Oyster River kids are not at all clever with their graffiti. I mean how many times can people write ‘Bong’ or ‘Penis’ or any swears and honestly still be amused? I mean come on guys. If you are going to do some graffiti, at

least make it mildly entertaining. I think the custodians might be going a bit crazy from having to sand the words ‘bong rip’ off of various objects around the school. Not only is the word bong getting on my nerves, but the elaborate pictures of bongs are rather excessive as well. Really guys, it just isn’t very clever at all. You are putting the people who wrote ‘Bong Hits for Jesus’ to shame by overusing their act of rebellion.

I am not trying to be Mr. Mature either; I will be the first one to admit that I am still far from that in many ways. I am just sick and tired of reading the same phrases over and over again. A small private part or the word “penis” etched onto a bathroom stall can only be funny so many times. “School isn’t the place for graffiti....if you are going to tag something, tag your house or yourself,” says social studies teacher Mr. Hawley. Now isn’t that interesting, these heroes can write “bong” on a locker but they wouldn’t dare wear a shirt that says it. If you do decide to wear a shirt that says bong, more power to you; hopefully that will give you the incentive to stop writing it everywhere.

I am not 100% against graffiti although I am 100% against pure ignorance. Writing something clever or drawing a funny picture outside on the picnic table isn’t bad at all. Drawing a large gorilla on a wooden lunch table is actually pretty funny. I think if you are expressing yourself artistically through graffiti and aren’t trying to offend someone or be a pest than it is sometimes acceptable. I understand that school can be boring and at times you need to express yourself in ways like that. I draw in my notebook when I’m feeling those urges. Students in Mr. Mroz’s Psychology classes have brought in specific articles stating that doodling is a helpful aspect for learning. In fact take a look at the double-truck (center) of the newspaper. It is a collection of Oyster River doodles; not drawn on school property but inside student’s notebooks. I really hope this isn’t a brand new concept for certain people, but if it is please take this into consideration.



How clever.

Chaz Hewitt was an Oyster River Alumni that graduated in 2007 and was a personal friend of mine that recently passed away. There are flyers posted around the school telling people about him, his death and activities created in honor of him. Some inconsiderate imbecile thought it would be funny to write “penis” and draw an example of one next to Chaz’s picture. This really raised a lot of emotion for me when I found out about this. At first I was really angry and offended. Then I really started feeling horrible about it. The fact that someone would show that much disrespect disgusts me. There is a time and a place for everything. Maybe drawing a penis on a picture of a murderer could be seen as acceptable in someone’s eyes, but drawing it on a memorial for a friend to many people at our school is not just idiotic, it is purely cold-hearted. Out of respect for Chaz and his family I have decided not to print this image. Although I would like the person to truly feel embarrassed, there is still no point in posting it. Someone that foolish probably wouldn’t even take the time to read this article anyways. Though I hope that whoever did it takes a step back to realize about how inconsiderate they are. It’s vandalism like this that there is no excuse or rationalization for.

Vandalism doesn’t even have to be that cruel to affect people. There is a little park in the woods next to Mill Pond in downtown Durham. It is very common for kids go there and sit on the brand new stone benches and steps to talk about their day. Other kids go by themselves and do homework or play music. The area is beautiful, especially with the extra work recently put in to make it more enjoyable. Well once again, someone had to go off and ruin it for everyone else. There is a path that leads you to a rock at this spot, a large rock that has seen many good times and has been a part of various outdoor activities. On Halloween someone thought it would be really funny to write the phrase “BPC ‘09” on the back of the rock, and a large bong on a tree next to it. These geniuses even put the apostrophe after the nine. Now you can clearly see what kind of cretins we are dealing with. “BPC” of course stands for the infamous “Blaze Phat Crew” which is the name for a group of college age individuals that partake in smoking heavy amounts of marijuana. Then to exacerbate this situation they drew a bong right next to it. Thanks guys, you know I think that gave this peaceful area a really nice look. It’s a damn shame that people think it’s entertaining to ruin a beautiful spot in nature. If they get caught I hope they have to spend the time cleaning the rock and tree until off it looks normal again. Believe me that would take a very long time.



Graffiti in the park next to Mill Pond





Hannah Allen
Op-Ed Writer

Teenage Showdown: Girls vs. Boys



Timmy Short
Op-Ed Writer

Boys are stupid. Boys, I’m not sorry. You just aren’t that awesome. And I’m pretty sure we all know how you got put on this Earth, yes, that’s right, a woman (yeah a guy helped out, but believe me they did the easy part). You think you are the rulers of the world, your cologne is either too strong or nonexistent, your hands are always dry, and that girl you hooked up with this weekend, was not that pretty.

You boys are always getting aggravated about girls being too giggly and too excited about things. I’ll agree, sometimes we do overreact, but I’d much rather listen to some girl be excited about something than listen to you criticize them about being too loud. Our bad for actually expressing our emotions and being happy when something good in life happens. Talking to you about anything besides sports or video games is seriously like talking to a brick wall. Actually, it’s worse. “I dunno.. I don’t care.. Eh..” that’s all that ever comes out of your mouths.

Maybe not all girls’ sports are the most intense and interesting, but at least they aren’t full of themselves. Wow cool you scored a goal on a crappy team, that doesn’t automatically make you the MVP; it doesn’t make girls think you’re hot and it definitely doesn’t give you bragging rights. The cockiest athletes always seem to be the worst. Okay yes, biologically men are built different than women and they are typically able to become bigger, faster and stronger, but just because you are born able to become bigger, faster and stronger, doesn’t mean you are.

Do you get your period once a month? Are your cramps so unbearable that you have to roll up into a ball and lay in bed? Have you ever carried around 35 extra pounds on your belly? Have you guys ever given birth? Exactly. I didn’t think so boys. Although I have never given birth to a child, I can vouch for those who have, and they are all women. So maybe you “men” are able to curl 30 pounds, but I’m pretty sure if you had to carry around a 35 pound baby in your stomach you wouldn’t survive a day. I tried an experiment with Senior Josh Park (who happens to be one of those guys who is actually strong), he put on the empathy belly for about 10 minutes, although he claimed that it was “easy” he also admitted that it was fairly uncomfortable to lay down with. So if after 10 minutes he already admitted to it being uncomfortable laying down in, imagine how painful it would be to sleep with, carry groceries with, cook dinner with and work with.

You are hypocrites. You complain so much about girls and how they try to be like their best friends. But you “bros” are seriously like puppy dogs. There are the alpha dogs (the leaders), and the beta dogs (the followers). When your alpha does something, you run along right after them. If they are mad about losing at wiffle ball, you’re right behind them throwing your hands in the air too. A few weeks ago I witnessed a similar event but with a different game, so before you criticize us for dressing too similar or doing the same things, remember my little analogy of you men being like alpha and beta dogs.

Guys, you try way too hard to impress girls. The things that come out of your mouths sometimes are seriously ridiculous, and definitely not that exciting. We don’t care that you went to a “wicked cool college party” or that you spent \$100 on a pair of ugly sneakers. You criticize girls for trying too hard, but seriously, step back and take a look at yourselves. Most of you look like cowards. Just so you know, us females are pretty smart, so when you try to smooth talk five different girls within a 24 hour span, they’re going to find out. And you are going to look stupid.

So before you go off and start talking to a girl about how big your biceps are because your alpha is doing the same, remember how hypocritical you guys are, remember that while you may be able to curl more than we can, you could never survive child birth (not only are you not strong enough/can’t tolerate that much pain, but your bone structure is also not made that way..).

Basically to sum it all up, I’ll say this. You all just suck. You interrupt, you smell weird, you’re extremely inconsistent, you wear the same clothes too often, you’re cocky, you are unable to keep plans, you’re preoccupied with boobs, you try too hard to impress girls, you belittle people who aren’t exactly the way you want them, your rooms are messy, you eat obnoxiously, you don’t listen to girls (even your girlfriends). The list could go on and on, but I’ll be nice and cut you some slack by ending with those. If you hate me for this, I don’t care, if you think you’re stronger than us, get over yourselves, and if you think you are better than us, you’re wrong.

Girls are lame. Ladies, I’m sorry. You just aren’t really as cool as guys. Remember the Garden of Eden? I think we all know who sinned first. Seriously, all that make-up makes you look like a clown, your hand-lotion is horrendously pungent, and your shoes are certainly not cute enough to justify an entire conversation.

I’m so sick of listening to teenage girls complain about how women are the targets of so much discrimination. Well here’s a suggestion: how about you let any African-American, homosexual, Jew, or Muslim take a walk in your oversized Ugg boots? Aside from the fact that they would be stuck in your ugly, bandwagon footwear, I bet they would much prefer it to their own situation. I can tolerate that feminist chatter from someone who actually knows what they’re talking about. But before you open your mouths to accuse me of sexism, you should remind yourselves that in reality you likely haven’t experienced any gender discrimination beyond attracting less soccer fans than the JV boys’ team. If you feel so victimized, why don’t you start asking us guys out, paying for our dinners, and trying to make us feel more secure about our weight? Even then

you wouldn’t be able to comprehend what it’s like to be a dude because you wouldn’t have to listen to yourselves babble and gossip and rant about stupid, unimportant affairs.

I can recall a specific occurrence a few years ago in my own freshman English class. We were discussing the book *Speak* (which is about a girl who was sexually assaulted and her ensuing depression), when some bold, intelligent male insightfully acknowledged the fact that the book really wasn’t enjoyable in the slightest. Every girl

in the class shrieked in anger at this notion, and with excessive heavy sighs and head shakes proceeded to say something along the lines of: “you don’t even know what it’s like to get raped”. *Well touché you shrewd lass, how intuitive.* You’re right; I’ve never been raped so I must not be able to determine whether or not I fancied a book about it. Hold on, I’m choking on the logic of that last sentence. Why do some women always seem to confuse standard disagreements for merciless chauvinism? Voila, perfect segue.

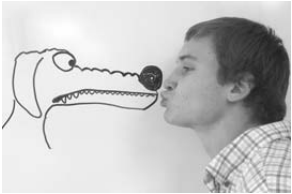
For example; men are better at sports then women. *Oh my god, what did he just say?* You heard me right. What are you going to do, crucify me? It’s true. It’s not a question of sexism; it’s a question of the human body. In the large majority of cases, men are bigger, stronger and faster. Now with that information in mind, ma’am, answer me this: would you rather watch a competition between two beetles or two polar bears? Would you like me to give you a moment for the realization to creep up on you? The correct answer is the bears, of course. I’m not trying to compare you girls to beetles, but the same principle can be applied to human athletics. Did you know that there is a Women’s Professional Football League? I didn’t think so. Now would you rather go watch the Minnesota Vikings or the Minnesota Vixens? I wonder.

The unfortunate thing is that I am going to be rebuked as a chauvinist pig by many girls just for writing this article, while the boys that read Hannah’s contrasting article will just laugh. Because that’s the other thing, you take everything too seriously. Like when we remind you how horrendous *Twilight* is. You’d think we were slighting your family or something. Seriously, calm down Vampiress-wannabe; get your canines away from my neck.

Listen, I understand, I really do. You’re just tremendously insecure. Save your complaining. I’ve heard enough of it. And don’t try to threaten me, either. Besides, what are you going to do? Pinch me?

The following information was collected from a ‘survey’ of 100 random Oyster River High School students:

Who is cooler?
Boys - 100%
Girls - 0%



Donovan Kelley
Op-Ed Writer

A Fan of Our Fans

For the past few years something has really been bothering me. Since I have been in high school here at Oyster River, we have always had very poor fans for every sport. Last year was probably the most pathetic of all years. It really isn't a bold statement to say that senior Ryan Randall as a junior last year was louder than the rest of our fan section. I can remember being blatantly embarrassed in our home gym last year in the basketball playoffs. The embarrassment truly began before any of the Portsmouth fans even stepped inside the building. Portsmouth fans were outside in our parking lot, blasting music and getting pumped up for the game. Where were our fans? Well they were inside, quietly chatting with each other about other matters of less importance. I remember not being able to hear any of our fans that game because of the fact that the Portsmouth fans were so loud. I left that day not only embarrassed because of our loss but because of our lack of support. It was time for a change and with a new school year this change has come. Our fans are now dedicated to just about every sport there is. No longer does Randall need to carry our fans on his back.

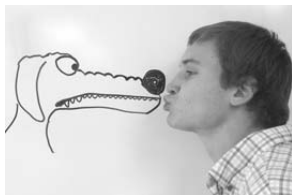
Although Randall may be a leader in the crowd, there are plenty of fans with just as much enthusiasm as him. Just take a look at the Super-Fan list in the Cafeteria. Adam Goodwin is currently the number one fan on that list and he should be proud. "Not being able to play soccer just made me want to be more of a fan to support my school," said Goodwin. Now why did we all of the sudden start getting so many fans? Did providing a laptop to whoever is on the top of the list at the end of the year get us this many fans? If you think that is the case, think again. I went to a girl's soccer game and half of the fans didn't even know of this reward. What does that show to you? To me it shows change and dedication. I really don't know what caused it, but it has been wonderful. I give a lot of credit to Randall for sticking through the roughest year Oyster River has seen after Leslie Claridge graduated. I guess you could compare him to President Obama for having the extreme desire for change.

The only thing that worries me is that our fans won't keep this up. Let me tell you that after going to a few Volleyball games, nothing sounds better than a gym filled with crazy fans. I know that playing basketball is so much better when you have your fans there supporting you like they were a part of the team. Senior Johnny O'Brien was speaking with me about some of the soccer games in the fall. "Our fans have been wonderful. Nothing pumps me up more than hearing Cody Mills yell 'You got nothing!' at my opponent. It feels like he is just as dedicated for us to win," and I couldn't agree more with him about that. There is nothing that makes me happier than when our fans get warned for being too rowdy. Supporting your school with that type of intensity is wonderful; even if you have a few slip ups now and then. I think that as long as you are supporting your team and showing a decent amount of class there shouldn't be any complaints; because in the long run sportsmanship is overrated. Being loyal to your team or teammates comes first for me over that any day.

New England winters are cold, and there isn't much to do outside but play in the snow. Plus that just gets old after the first time you do it. So instead of sitting down at home this winter, keep this new and awesome trend alive by supporting every one of our school's teams. It doesn't have to stop after the winter, fans. Let's keep this support going through the spring and into the following years. If we teach each other the ways of being a good fan, hopefully we won't need another drastic change. Thank you fans and please keep up the intensity.



Ryan Randall saying 'Yes we can!'



Donovan Kelley
Op-Ed Writer

(P) I.S.S.

"Mr. Kelley, if you had been caught doing this downtown, you would be charged as a sex offender!" said Warden One as I was dragged into the main office. Now I don't want you getting the wrong impression, a sex offender can be many different things. In my case it would be for Public Urination or Indecent Exposure. If I had known this prior to my urination, let's just say things would be different now. Luckily, I was only caught by the school. *And I would have gotten away with it too if it wasn't for you meddling custodians!* Peeing on a wall doesn't earn you just a slap on the wrist. In my case, I received a half day out of school suspension, full day in school suspension (hence the title) and several hours of community service. So was it worth it? Probably not; there is the possibility that I could have urinated in my jeans though. If that was the case, I'll take the consequences. During my suspension I decided to keep a running journal of my 'very exciting' day. Seven hours of madness in a small cell, it was one hell of a day.

7:35 am – I report to my cell. Seven hours of torture and boredom ahead of me. For once I have an extreme desire to be in class. I never thought that in all of my years of school that I would have that kind of crazy aspiration. All of my teachers have been e-mailed to send work down for me to do. I really don't want to see their reactions when they found out what I did. Well it's time to start my work for the day; hopefully this will take me a good amount of the day. I would much rather be doing work than sitting doing nothing.

8:40 am – I am now done with all of the homework I had from last night, and the work that my teachers brought for me. The only teacher that dropped work off for me was Mr. Pappas. He didn't seem to be very shocked when I told him what I had done. He originally asked if I had written on one of the walls; close enough.

9:35 am – I feel an extreme urge to use the restroom. I wonder what they would do if I used the wall of the I.S.S. room. It's time to show them that I am a big boy now and can use the restroom. I step out of my cell and ask Warden Two if I can use the bathroom. Walking through the hallways I feel a bit crazy; being trapped in that little room for two hours has given me a severe case of tunnel vision. I think about the possibility of making a break for it, but just as this thought it going through my mind I take a gander up to the ceiling. There is a little black bubble sticking out of the ceiling, staring at me from the control tower. I can almost see the Warden's eyes through it; daring me to try and run. Once I am done, I flush the urinal and wash my hands with pride. Thank you Oyster River, I was such a lost individual before.

9:50 am – I am starting to go crazy from my lack of an iPod. I'm too tired to try and read right now, I know that I will end up forgetting everything. I decide that it would be a good idea to take a nap. For a second I try to decide whether it's a bad idea or not to keep the light off with the door shut. This may be fairly obvious that I am napping. I decide that I really don't care, they probably won't even check. I spread out two chairs and lay across them with my feet resting on the mini counter where I was earlier doing my work. This isn't very comfortable at all but with this boredom I might as well try to sleep.



Freedom?

10:15 am – I wake up to Warden Two shaking me. "You need to find something more productive to do." I give my scruff a scratch and rub my eyes. Pondering of things to do, I look to my backpack I brought along. I open the zipper and pull out a very dope copy of the book *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson. Although I am a bit peeved they woke me up I am still happy that I got a good amount of sleep in.

10:45 am – I need to use the bathroom again. This time I make the mistake of talking to Warden Three. He tells me that if I want to use the bathroom I will have to use the nurse's bathroom. When I walk by I can see that it is occupied so I decide to make a break for the regular bathroom. Why are they so afraid of me being in contact with the rest of the school? Now that I am out, I take a pit stop in Mr. Pappas's room. I give him the homework I had to smuggle out of the I.S.S. room. It's nice to finally have contact with another human that isn't one of the Wardens.

10:55 am – When I get back I see that Warden Three and the nurse are waiting for me, tapping their toes with disgust. I get scolded for not using the nurse's bathroom that was occupied at the time. I don't understand why the nurse would rat me out. Shouldn't she be dealing with the kids waiting for her outside of her office?

11:20 am FIRST LUNCH– I am escorted to get lunch and have to bring it back to my cell. I chat with the office ladies for a bit due to the fact that all of the Wardens are gone doing their own things. The office ladies are breaking the rules for me, and I couldn't be happier. It feels great to be talking about something other than urination or a dark closet called the I.S.S. room.

12:10 pm SECOND LUNCH – It is now the afternoon, I am close to being done with this hell. Mrs. Healy has saved my life to a certain extent. She has just given me permission to work on the computer for a homework assignment. I am not allowed to do anything else, but this will do. I head to Mr. Heuchling's room and begin working. A familiar voice echoes into the room. "Ayy dude you goin' crazy?" I don't even need to turn around; I do not only know who the

person is but their facial expression as well. Craig Goddard has decided to give me a visit and chat about the most recent South Park episode. Just before Goddard leaves, he hands me his iPod. I hold it with awe and a single tear flows down my cheek; well not really but close.

12:40 pm – I am done with my economics work and it is time to go back to my cell. Right when I get back I have another visitor. Sonia Ginsburg steps into the I.S.S. room to drop off a Sociology paper. We talk for a few minutes but she is forced to leave. Warden Two does not like visitors "He is not here for socializing!" There are less than two hours left.

1:05 pm – I have decided that maybe I really am going crazy. I counted all of the full squares, half squares and third squares in the room. There are 24 full squares, six '1/3' squares and seventeen '1/2' squares. This combines for a grand total of 34 1/2 squares. Mr. O'Connell would be very proud to see that I am doing math in my free time. Anything is better than this ridiculous room.

1:40 pm – The fire alarm was just set off. Finally I can go outside and catch some fresh air. This is the first time I have been outside since 7:35 this morning. That just isn't right.

2:29 pm – Warden two has given me the opportunity to leave early. How kind of her, I mean a whole minute early! Walking through the halls I feel like a prisoner, just released from jail. I feel as though all of my moves are being watched by the cameras. I stop to chat with a few friends then walk to my car. I drive home immediately and take about a three hour nap. After what I experienced I hope I never have to go through an I.S.S. again. Now I know it's better to waste all of that water in a urinal rather than simply going outside.



Hannah Allen
Op-Ed Writer

Guess What? wYou're All Pathetic!

I take my keys out of the ignition and set them in the cup holder. Opening my wallet I see that I only have a few dollars left. I debate whether to use my twenty dollar Irving card, and end up deciding seven bucks in gas will last me 24 hours or so. Although I don't have a "real" job, I babysit as often as I can, usually taking in about \$40 a week. I wouldn't say it's a lot of money, but it helps me get by.

For as long as I can remember I have been what I like to think of as financially independent from my parents. There are a few things they do pay for still, such as my car insurance and groceries but I cannot remember the last time I asked for money to go out, get food or attend a game. Of course there have been times when I run low on money, but I always pay them back. I know not to bother asking them to pay for a dance or movie because they believe that by my age, I should be able to manage on my own. Sometime it is frustrating that they aren't willing to hand me money when I want it, but at the same time it makes me happy that I have learned at such a young age to manage my money appropriately.

I worry that so many students are going off to college next year unable to do things on their own. If you live on campus, parents aren't going to be there to do laundry, pack lunch, pay for gas or be an alarm clock. "I don't pay for my own gas," explains Senior Michelle Mason, "It's not my car." This seems to be a pathetic excuse for not paying for gas. Technically, a lot of seniors who drive don't "have their own car" because they aren't eighteen yet. The 1997 Toyota Camry I drive belongs to my parents, but I pay for every drop of gas (except when I drive friends and they pitch in). So, just because it's "not your car" doesn't mean you shouldn't pay for the gas you use. You're borrowing their car, so why should they pay for you to borrow it? Exactly, they shouldn't.

It seems so sad to me that so many teenagers still depend on their parents to pack them lunch for school. Making a sandwich is seriously one of the easiest things to do. “I know how to, it just takes way too long,” explains Senior Alex Meissner. It takes a maximum of 5 minutes to make a sandwich, and if it takes you longer than that, you need lessons. Lunch is an important meal, especially for teenagers during school. Many students don’t eat a good breakfast, and by the time lunch rolls around they are ready for an energy boost. So along with your sandwich you can add granola bars, pretzels or even some fruit.

When I look around at my friends and classmates, I get aggravated at how many of them still depend on their parents, it's absolutely pathetic. I've washed my own laundry probably since I was in 4th grade while there are seniors in high school getting ready to go off to college next year who still have "their mommy" wash their clothes. "I don't know how to work the washing machine," explains Mason. "I've learned a few times, but I never remember how."



How to Wash and Dry Your Clothes



1. Separate lights and darks. This is important because if you put dark clothes in with lights, the darks might bleed and stain the light colored clothes. This would not be good.



2. Put clothes in washer. Make sure that you don't put too many clothes into the washer, you should be able to fairly easily shut the door. Don't put too few clothes in either, that would be a major waste of energy.



3. Turn washer on the recommended setting for what you are washing. Allow clothes to dampen before adding detergent. While you are letting your clothes soak, pick the detergent you will use.



4. Measure out the recommended amount of detergent. Usually there is a line on the detergent cap that you should fill to. If you are doing a small load of laundry then you don't need to use as much detergent as you would doing a large load.



5. Once clothes are dry remove them from the washer and put them in the drier. Add a drier sheet so that clothes are softer and smell better.

6. Fold clothes. Make sure all your socks have matches, and hang up any clothes that need to be hung instead of folded.

7. Put them away. There is nothing more annoying than having a pile of clean clothes next to a pile of dirty clothes and not knowing which are clean and which aren't.

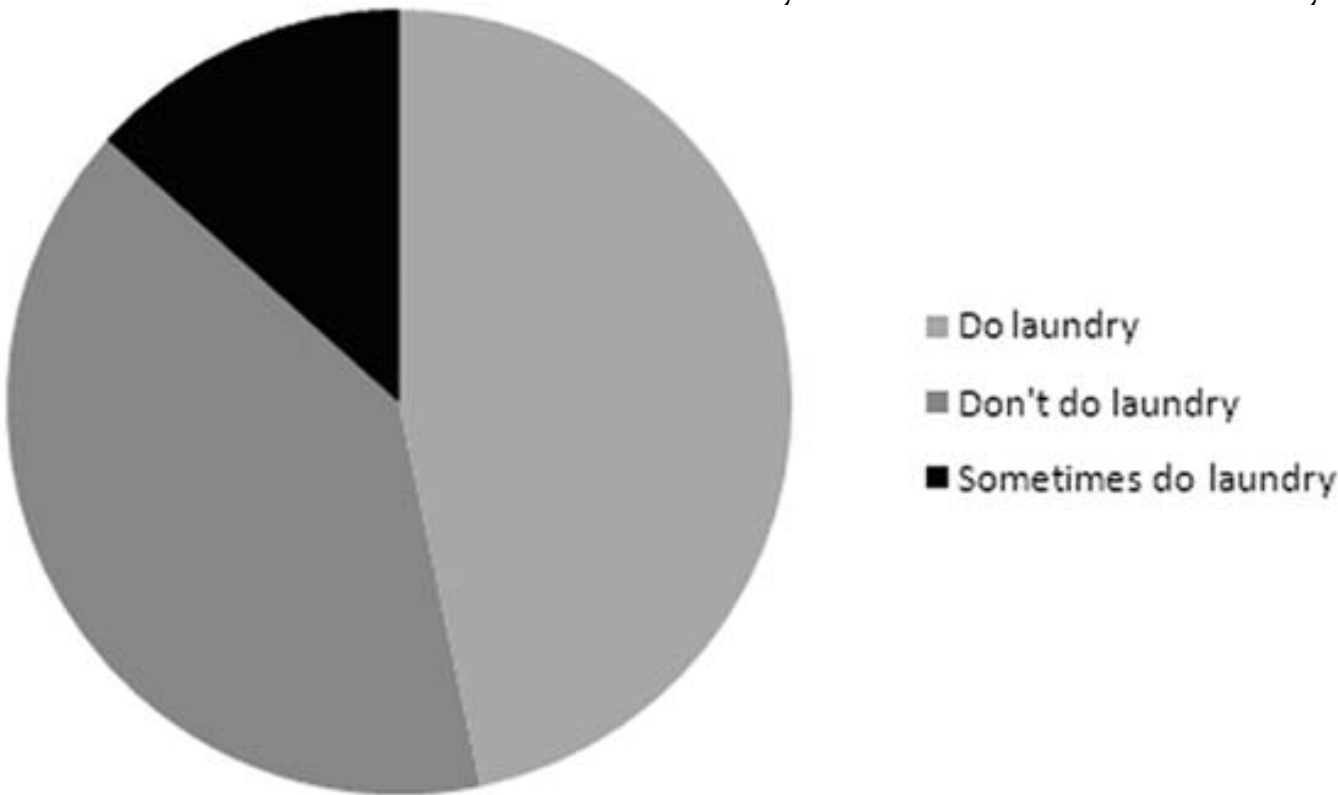


Hannah Allen
Op-Ed Writer

Look How Pathetic You Are

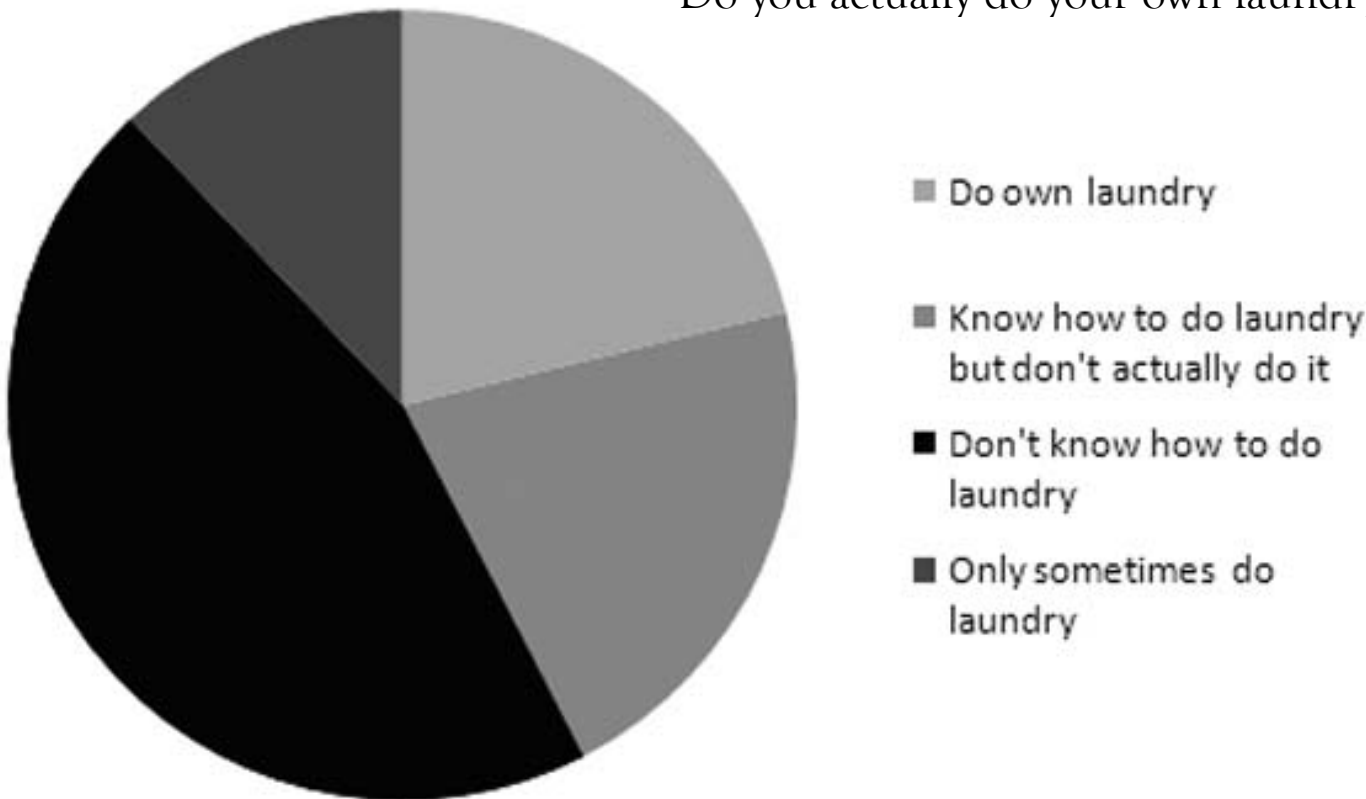
Surveying 60 seniors here at Oyster River High School, it became even more clear than before to me that so many seniors are pathetic. Next year we are supposed to be going off “on our own”, but clearly this transition will not be easy for all seniors. I randomly asked seniors if they knew how to do laundry and if they paid for their own gas. Due to the crazy amount of students who said they knew how to do laundry, but didn’t actually do their own laundry, I thought it was important to share that information. Here are a few graphs of the unfortunate discovery I made.. Seniors, you are pathetic.

Do you know how to do laundry?



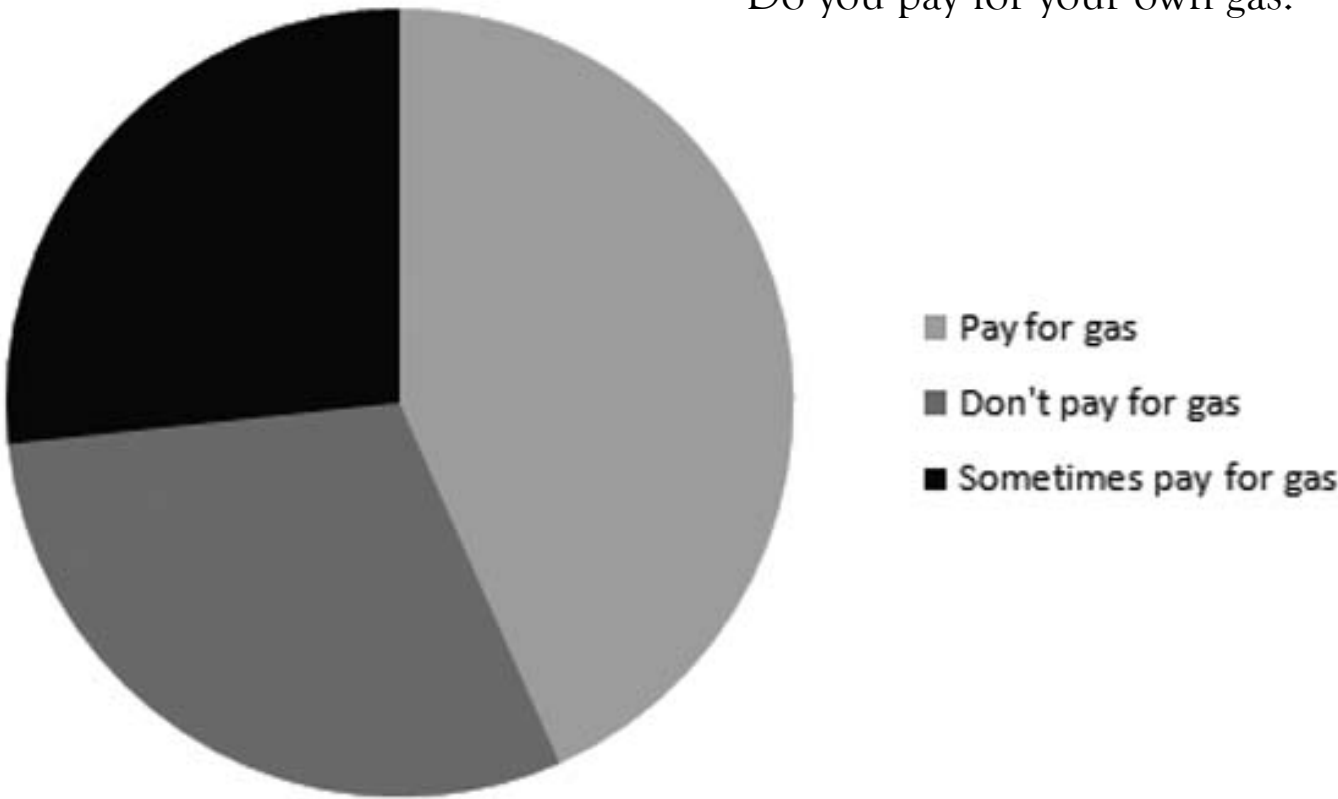
Like I said before, I started doing my laundry at a very young age. Even when my mom did do my laundry I had to help. Me and my sisters would make a pile by the stairs and throw it over the balcony (we loved washing our bed sheets because one of us would lay down at the bottom of the balcony as we all threw down our sheets), after we had our fun of throwing clothes we were in charge of bringing them into the laundry room for my mom to wash. Again, the number of people who said they do know how to do their own laundry is pretty high, but half of those people admitted to not actually doing their own laundry.

Do you actually do your own laundry?



So here my friends I would like to show you how many of you actually wash your own clothes on a regular basis. Sadly, it’s not very many. Those of you who don’t know how to do your own laundry yet will be the pathetic college students who wear dirty clothes all the time and have heaps of filthy clothes piled up in a corner. You will be those kids coming home with bags and bags filled with grimy clothes for mommy and daddy to wash, and that is pathetic. Boys, I know you want to depend on the females you’ll manipulate into doing laundry for you, and maybe that will work for a little while, but in the long run it will backfire, and you will look useless.

Do you pay for your own gas?



All right all right, I know you guys are thinking, “Well that’s a big percentage that pay for their own gas, it’s not that bad,” but really, it’s bad. More than a quarter of the seniors I surveyed said that they never pay for their own gas, and another whole quarter said that they only “sometimes” paid for their own. That’s awful. If you are driving places you want to go, you should be paying for your gas. I understand if you are running errands for your parents that maybe they will pitch in on gas money, but seriously, think of all the gas money they spent on you when you didn’t have a license. They shouldn’t have to pay for your gas still. And I ask you, what’s going to happen when you live on your own? Are mommy and daddy gonna send you money or put money on in your bank account for you?



Caitlin Olson
Sports Writer

Mind Your Manners

It's the big day, the day you play your arch rivals whether it is Coe-Brown, St.Thomas or Portsmouth. You want to win so bad to rub it in their face that you just had an oh-so-sweet victory; but should you proceed with what you really desire? Should you chirp (insult) the other team or should you be on your best behavior before, during and after the game? Oyster River High School Athletic Director Don Maynard feels that good sportsmanship is important to maintain while some athletes argue that the whole ordeal is taken too seriously.

Maynard defines good sportsmanship as "Playing as hard as you can and doing everything possible to win while competing in a positive way within the rules and appreciating the efforts of your opponent." Whereas some athletes only agree with Maynard to an extent on that definition, Senior Donovan Kelley agrees with everything he says up until a point. He doesn't feel that when that you should appreciate your opponent, "It's something that should wait until after the game is over," says Kelley.

Kelley is also one of the athletes that thinks good sportsmanship is taken too seriously during the game. "In any game you're in you want to belittle your opponent as much as possible," says Kelley. "This doesn't



Junior defender Elizabeth Lambert in a New Mexico soccer game gets angry at her opponent so she pulls the girl down by the pony tail



Another example of Elizabeth Lambert showing terrible sportsmanship by punching a girl in the back

mean you go out of your way to be mean."

Senior Ryan Randall also believes that people think too much about sportsmanship, "I think people look too deeply into it," says Randall, "Trash talking shouldn't be looked down upon; it's part of the game." He feels that referees and sometimes other players take good sportsmanship too seriously by punishing players too harshly and allowing the opponent to walk all over you and say-

ing sorry for hitting them while the game is still going on.

On the other side of the spectrum there are the students who agree with the rules and theories behind good sportsmanship. "Respect for the other teams and their coaches" says Randall as he describes his definition of good sportsmanship while Sophomore Izzy Gorham describes it as "having a good attitude toward everyone involved."

Why does it matter you may ask? The concept seems more important than some athletes and coaches make it seem. "Sportsmanship is important because it teaches you to have respect for others," says Girls Varsity Lacrosse Coach Casey Reynolds, "There is never a need to be nasty with another team over a game."

How should an athlete go about dealing with frustration on the field? Kindness is a good starting point. "Kill them with kindness," suggested Coach Reynolds, "Works every time! If someone is being nasty with you don't stoop to their level, just be nice to them and it will throw them off even more. The more you keep your head in the game the better off you are and you will see more wins."

If that wouldn't work for you; don't fear! Stay calm, in fact don't do anything at all just be neutral; we all know the saying "if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all," so why not at least give it a try? "It just entices the other team if you are playing dirty," explains Coach Reynolds "Just stay neutral."

In the end it's all about respect; respect for the players, coaches and most of all the game. Keep your cool during the game and leave everything on the field when it's all over. "Don't say you hate them," says Randall explaining how a game should end, "Say good game and that should be the end of it." If you don't want to do it for good sportsmanship, do it for your team, no one likes a sore loser (or winner!). End the game with good spirits no matter what the outcome. If it's a win then wait to celebrate when the other team is gone, if it's a loss then congratulate the other team and talk about how you can improve save the bitterness for later. Good sportsmanship does reflect and come back to you in the end, "I am very happy with the efforts our coaches and athletes have made trying to compete while exhibiting good sportsmanship," Maynard expressed when he reflected on the years of Oyster River Athletics.



Josh Park
Sports Writer

Things Athletes Shouldn't Do

Sophomore Austin Alphonse remembers signing the player/parent contract at the beginning of the season without really reading the handbook. Many athletes like Alphonse absent mindedly sign the athletic contract at the beginning of a season without actually understanding its content. The athletic handbook has strict guidelines on what you can and can't do during a season.

When did the handbook originate? It isn't really well known, "The handbook was placed before I got the job," says Maynard. "However, little bits and pieces have been added through the years." One piece introduced this year: "dress up' attire **must be approved by the coach**". This could be due to some spirit deemed questionable in appropriateness. Senior Johnny O'Brien says, "I think it's dumb but the athletes should use good judgment with what they pick." The difficulty in getting the coaches approval seems to be a factor. "It's hard to contact your coach for approval if they don't go to your spag (team dinners where most of these spirit decisions tend to be made)," says O'Brien.



Owen Gehling
seen with a "beer"

For all you tobacco users, tobacco use is not permitted during a season. Similarly to the alcohol and substance abuse penalty, the consequences for being caught using any tobacco product is a two-week suspension. The question of legality is brought up by some. As many of you know the legal age for tobacco use is 18. Athletic Director Don Maynard responded by saying, "No, being on an athletic team is a privilege. There are rules you have to follow or your privilege can be taken away." An anonymous senior athlete who occasionally uses tobacco products agrees, "Do I feel it is unfair? No. Rules are rules and I have no problem giving it up to participate on a team."

Former student Owen Gehling recalls when he got caught for drinking before a dance his junior year. "I was wasted at a dance. They caught me when I was walking out," he says. "I was suspended for a week and I couldn't practice for two weeks." He is one of very few kids that have broken the alcohol use rule.

Although there are no real statistics, it is rare for someone to get in trouble for substance abuse during a season. Maynard adds, "I'll investigate and get to the bottom of something if I hear about it but I'm not looking to go door to door during the weekends looking to catch kids."

Gehling's situation was a little different due to him actually being at a school event, meaning there were other punishments involved. "It was pretty dumb I guess, to drink before a school dance during a sports season," Gehling says. "There's nothing I can really complain about because I clearly broke the rules."

If your GPA during the previous marking period is under a 1.0, you are not able to participate in a sport. "If someone screws up at the end of their junior year, they shouldn't have to miss a fall sport senior year," says senior Zak Kondratenko. However when it deals with winter sports and spring sports that same year Kondratenko responds, "Yeah, it's fair." The fact that you can't do anything all summer to get your eligibility back is considered unfair to some.

Bottom line: There's no way the handbook can be absolutely perfect and fit everyone's needs but if you want to play, you have to abide by its rules. If not, suffer the consequences.



"Johnny O'Brien" falling behind with doing homework



"Austin Alphonse" partying hard at a rager.



"Brendan Kotlus" seen at an under aged party

Note: All pictures are fake and edited for the purpose of this article



Caitlin Olson
Sports Writer

Feature Sport: Kick Boxing

I begin by wrapping my hands and wrists to protect them from an unfriendly punch. I warm up by stretching out and moving around starting with rolling punches, lightly of course. We go through the motions and sooner than later it's time to spar. It's my turn and I'm up against my instructor. I do the standard one, two, three punch but end with a swinging roundhouse kick to his rib cage. We continue and he is not fazed because I'm laughing about it. I must admit I do feel a little awkward kick boxing my former chemistry teacher but he doesn't seem too upset about it. I carry on, envisioning the anger I felt about the mid-term he gave us and I punch harder; finally revenge! Mr. (Doug) Baker understands though, he knows this is a new environment and takes me seriously as a new kind of student.

Every athlete knows that the off season is awful for their state of fitness. So why not stay in shape by trying something new and fun? There are plenty of activities to do on the off season you just have to know where to look for them. Activities range from Bikram Yoga (yoga performed in a room with a temperature of 105 degrees) to just running every day; anything will do. Kick boxing is the featured sport this time, so here's how it goes.



Going for the right hand upper cut; one of the more useful punches because it aims for under the chin



Here I am performing a lower roundhouse kick to the mat that Emma Smith is holding at her side for protection



Instructor Doug Baker showing proper punch placement.

I asked Baker about his history in kick boxing and he had some interesting answers....

What is your background with martial arts?

-Over the years I have studied a number of different styles of traditional Chinese martial arts, such as kung fu (gongfu) and tai chi chuan (taijiqvan). My motivation for learning, practicing, and now teaching, was always about the deeper aspect of spiritual development, as opposed to "self defense".

I also participate in the more modern forms of mixed martial arts, which is more about pure sport than anything else. I also logged many hours at the arcade playing "Street Fighter" as a youngster which undoubtedly helped me develop my mad joystick control skills.

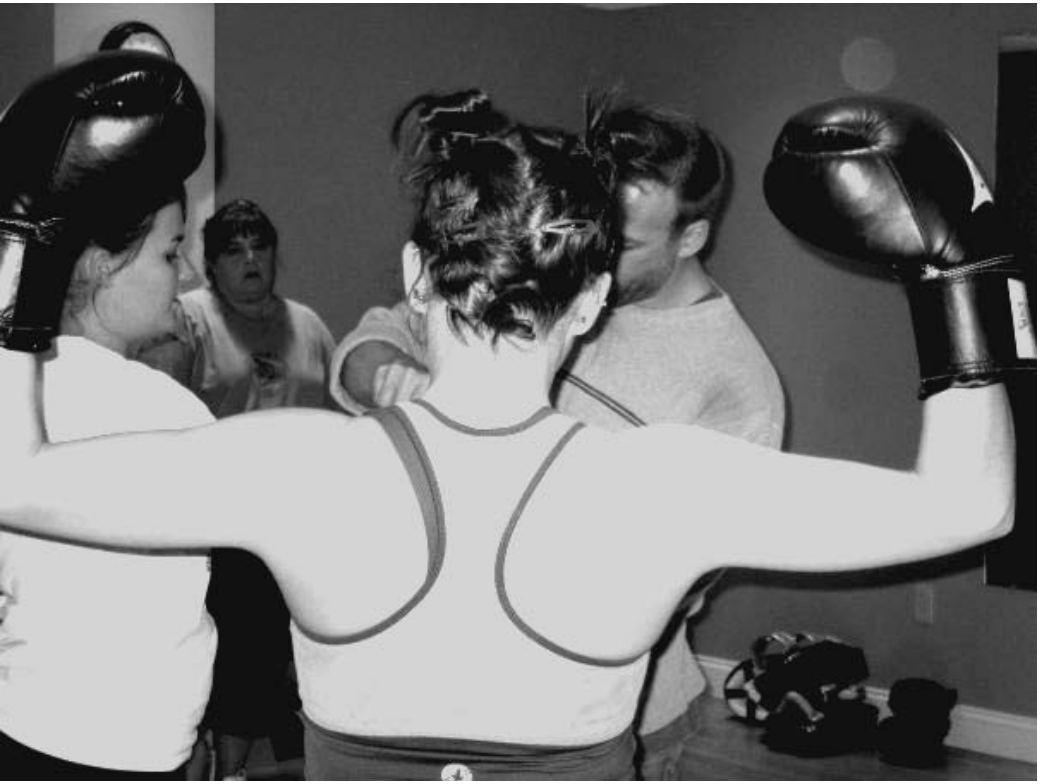
How did you get into kick boxing?

-I have been involved with boxing, since the 1980's! During that time I was also involved with break dancing, mullets, and trying to fashion, an albeit rudimentary, time machine from at Datsun B210 since I lacked the funds for a Delorean... but I digress. Boxing gyms also offered kick boxing programs as well, so I decided to give it a try.

-I would also like to add that I am funnier than Mr. Thibault, and that I think Mr. Bromley is cute.



Round house kick to the punching bag in order to practice proper kicking form



Me showing off my mad muscles... 'nough said

In the end, it's just about trying something new! There are belly dancing classes and Tai Chi and all sorts of other activities offered out there so just pick sometime up. It doesn't matter what it is as long as you get a good hour of cardio four or more times a week. There's also always a pick game somewhere whether it be basketball or Ultimate Frisbee so just get friends together and have fun with it.



By Josh Park
Sports Writer

The Winter Sports Preview

With the fall season over a new wave of Oyster River athletes make their way into the battlefield. With so many winter sports teams it's hard to follow them all so here are some previews.

Girls' Basketball - Coming off a championship season, the girls' basketball team has a lot to live up to. Senior Elise Contas comments, "Hopefully we'll have another good team. We have a lot of experienced players and some good young talent too." With seasoned veterans and some hot prospects they expect to go far in the postseason. Some key games for the girls are: Home opener vs. Coe Brown Northwood Academy, Portsmouth and St. Thomas.



The girls ski team at states.

optimistic with the season, "I expect to get wrecked because we got permanently moved up to Division II but who knows." Key races: States, and the Race of Champions.

Girls' Ski Team - Much like the boys team the girls had been racing Division III schools but surprisingly finished 5th at the state championship. Senior Rory Mandl-Abramson says, "Hopefully we'll do as well or better. But we have a very different team this year so we'll see." The team has nearly doubled in size this year and they haven't lost any racers so exceeding a 5th place finish is very possible. Key races: The all day race and the state championship.



Paul Larkin passing another runner in the relay.

with last years graduating class but we have gotten a bunch of new people and hopefully we can field just as good of a team, if not better." Key races: December 19th meet at UNH and the Class I-MS Championships.

Girls' Indoor Track - The girls did pretty well last year finishing 6th at the Class I-MS Championships. However, they lost two high point scorers in Lana Ciali and Marie Collins. According to Senior Alyssa Johnson there is no reason to panic, "Our leadership will be better this year which will hopefully result in a higher level of team focus at practices and meets." Key Meets: Every meet is considered except for the Class I-MS State meet.

Boys' Hockey - The boys lose arguably the top three players in the league after a heart-breaking championship game loss against Timberlane. Undoubtedly after losing some key players there will be some rebuilding. Senior Craig Goddard says, "I expect us to get off to a rocky start but I think we have a lot of potential. We have a good set of seniors who will need to step up to make it a successful season. I think by the end of the season your going to see a completely different team." Key games: A lot, the league is fairly even this year making every game a competitive one.

Girls' Hockey - Last years girls hockey team exceeded expectations and got to the semi-finals before losing to Lebanon. The upcoming season is unpredictable, "I am not quite sure what to expect this year, I think we are going to have a fairly small team, like last year but I am pretty sure we don't have any incoming freshman. I think we could potentially do well if we work hard and play our best; I have some faith since we did well last year." Key games: St. Thomas, Concord and Lebanon.



The girls basketball team after their championship win.

Boys' Basketball - Getting upset in the quarterfinals the boys return with another championship caliber team. In the words of Senior Tommy McDonnell, "State championship or bust." The team has been getting ready with open gyms and has good reason to aim high. With good leadership and few weaknesses the Bobcats are a strong title contender. Key Games: Milford and Coe Brown Northwood Academy.

Boys' Ski Team - The boys have moved up to Division II where the competition is much greater. With a good regular season the boys had to compete against Division II ski schools at states instead of the Division III competition they had been seeing all year. Senior Taylor Lannamann is not



Senior Tommy McDonnell drives toward the basket.

Girls' Swim Team - The girls won the state championship last year. They have been very good in recent years finishing 3rd the year before last. The team has a very good chance to win states again. Senior Devan Roehrig says, "We're hoping to win states again. We're just as strong if not stronger this year." The team had many participants in the Meet of Champions but many of the swimmers were sick and didn't perform their best. Key meets: Bobcat invitational and the State Championship.

Boys' Swim Team - The boys swim team has dominated the field in recent years. With two-straight state titles they are looking to add a third. Senior Dan Duvall has high hopes, "There is a very high probability that we will win states this year, boys and girls alike." The boys return many swimmers from last year's team, several of them going to the Meet of Champions. Key meets: States and the Meet of Champions.

Boys' Indoor Track - The boys finished 4th at the Class I-MS Championships last year. There is no looking back for Senior Matt Webber, "We are hoping to be even more competitive than last year. We lost a lot of talent



Boys hockey team celebrating after a goal.



Gabby Brodeur
Sports Writer

On a mission to discover the most tasty and most energizing beverage available, I drove to Store 24 and filled my arms with cans. Eighteen dollars and thirty four cents later, I had six cans to test. Each can was 16 oz. I drank one a day during F period, and observed my energy for the rest of the day. I reviewed each drink based upon outward appearance, opening noise, taste, energy impact, price, and how much of a crash it gave me. It was a long sleepless week, but the results were rather interesting.

1 Week. 6 Cans. 958mgs of Caffeine. One very tired Senior.



Venom“Mojave Rattler”

A crazy purple eye is lurking on the label, waiting to fill your veins with caffeine. I got the Low-Carb version because it was purple and purple seemed better than the neon yellow counterpart. It stayed extremely cold the whole time; it might have been the strangely insulated bottle.

Opening Noise: Made a small fizzing noise and then the top crackled obnoxiously.

Taste: Very subtle fizz, not too sweet, smells and tastes little like grape and citrus. Smells like cough syrup.

Impact: It feels like I am blinking a lot. Things seem fast, and hilarious. Couldn't fall asleep until well after midnight, even though the drink was consumed right around one o'clock.

Price: \$1.99

Crash Level: Didn't crash for almost twelve hours, absolutely absurd.

Rockstar Energy

A super gold star is flying across the label, emblazoned with a double R. The little blurb on the back tells me once I consume this beverage within (preferably served “super chilled”) I will be bigger, better, faster and stronger. Thanks Kanye, but I doubt that finishing the can will give me international fame.

Opening Noise: There was no opening slicing noise, but definitely a huge pop.

Taste: My first impression is a strange hint of cotton candy? It has a bit of a salty after taste, and a kick of Smarties flavor. Overall I don't find it as offensive as some of the others. Tastes like a weaker version of Monster.

Impact: After a while the fizz gives me a sore throat, which is concerning. I'm definitely more energized but it feels like productive energy instead of crazy-out-of-control-drunk-off-caffeine energy. I also have a headache, but I'm not sure the two are related.

Price: \$1.99

Crash Level: My energy seems to fade away instead of dropping instantly. This drink seemed mild overall.



Monster Energy

Pretty sure everyone's had this one at some point. The green tab is rather eye catching, but other than that nothing on the can entertains me. The can is trying to brag about loads of vitamin C but I'm not so sure about how beneficial it is. It also boasts itself as the “meanest energy supplement on the planet”. We'll see just how mean it is.

Opening Noise: The pop was more satisfying, followed by a loud fizz.

Taste: Overly sweet but lacking in flavor. I had to force myself to drink this one. My taste buds are crying.

Impact: I feel like I'm going to die. Shortly after consuming it I got twitchy and nervous, if I knew what a bad drug trip was like, this would be it.

Price: \$2.29

Crash Level: After about 2 hours I start yawning a lot, and I felt pleasantly sleepy. Not a bad crash but still rather de-habilitating.



Red Bull



My personal favorite, I'm trying to go into this without prejudice. The familiar looking can is silver and blue checker-ish print, with red writing. Two red bulls are charging at each other, perhaps to symbolize this drink is like being crushed between bulls. The price is absurd; almost double that of its competitors.

Opening Noise: It was a more hollow popping noise, followed by a puff of smoke-like steam, which was strange.

Taste: Cherry cough syrup is the first thing that comes to mind for others, but all I can taste is awesome. The fizz is definitely smaller bubbles than some of the other drinks and the after taste is not as noticeable. It's less sweet than the other drinks; the sweetness is brief when you first take a sip.

Impact: Ah, this is the kick in the face energy I was looking for. I feel like I have super human strength!

Price: \$4.20 (oh word)

Crash Level: I got that huge rush of energy I was looking for all along. The euphoric energy high lasted for about an hour, and then I was kind of tired. Left me happy and without a sugar crash headache.



SoBe No Fear Super Energy

Marked by a cracked skull with wings it is certainly the most intimidating of the cans. Adorned with red and black colors, I think it is trying to look BA, but I find it ridiculous. A banner around the top is yelling about earning points to get stuff. I have trouble staying focused on what the can says with all of this going on.

Opening Noise: It is a sharp slicing noise followed by a loud pop.

Taste: Tastes extremely citrusy, the fizz is kind of in your face but fades quickly. Reminiscent of fizzy vitamin water mixed with medicine.

Impact: Didn't feel anything. Not even a little boost, I was left tired and feeling a little sick. Definitely don't like this one.

Price: \$2.29

Crash Level: Never made me energized in the first place.

Full Throttle

Another black can, surprising. For some reason, the “O” in the Throttle is bigger than the other letters, and the flavor (original) is encased by flames. The logo looks like it was designed by retired bikers, which confuses me about who the target audience is. Coming from Coca-Cola who used to put cocaine in their drinks I was expecting a little more of a kick.

Opening Noise: The pop is the quietest yet, not as biker as I thought.

Taste: I guess it's supposed to be citrus-y, but it ends up feeling a little like salt water. Gross overall, but my taste tester said it was great. We sat for a long time trying to figure out what the taste reminded us of, finally realizing it was Gushers.

Impact: I felt moderately energized, but not completely topped off to full energy drink potential. The gross taste made me finish it quickly but I'm still not super energized.

Price: \$2.19

Crash Level: Minimal, I was able to go for a run soon after and not crash when I was done.





Gabby Brodeur
Sports Writer

One Night Only at the MUB: Your Dreams Come True

Skiers are the only athletes that get teased by their sport 6 months out of the year. Those off season months without snow are probably the worst thing a skier could experience. But to temper the sting of nostalgia for last winter, ski movies appear right around October every year. They bring the possibilities of winning some-

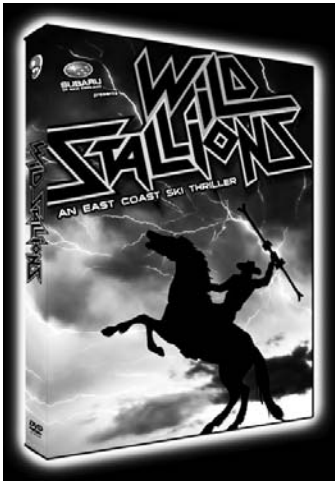
thing in a raffle, excitement for the upcoming season, and of course, some new beats to bump on the way to the mountain. I asked a few skiers from around school who have seen some of this year's films what they thought. I compiled the results based upon where they were filmed and who they featured, and the "bottom line". We'll see if the movies match up to the upcoming season.



Tom Wallisch soaring through the air.

Wild Stallions

Meathead Films



Wild Stallions seems to be the crowd favorite. Shot mostly in the East and up in Canada, viewers seem to enjoy the fact that they recognize the sights on film. "Although heli skiing in Alaska might be fun to dream about, I would much rather watch a movie like Wild Stallions that focuses on features in places I've been. Meathead Films does a great job setting up and slaying cool features at places I ski," said Ben Rodgers. The concept is based around a video clip that parallels the travels of the skiers to movement patterns of wild horses. Meat-



head's unique film style has proved them to be as entertaining as other big budget ski movie crews. "Wild Stallions was great because a lot of the different hills bring back memories and make you want to ski them again, and you can relate to their search for the best the east has to offer," said Senior Matt Hails. Filmed at: Sunday River, Jay Peak, Stowe, Cannon Featuring: Ian Compton, Will Wesson, Nick Martini, Andy Parry Bottom Line: Wild Stallions stays local but still has a lot of good shots.



Steve Stepp throws down at Mount Hood.

Refresh

Level 1 Productions

The whole concept of the movie is comparing the current sport of freestyle skiing to its past few years. It is mostly big name skiers throwing impossible tricks. "Movies like Refresh let us dream big, like a kid would watch Michael Jordan throw down a game changing dunk," said Kai Beaton, viewer and ski enthusiast. "We to can dream big and put ourselves in Tom Wallisch's boots as he conquers the park or Tanner Rainville's as he flies through the back country." Though the movie will amaze you, it gets old. "While the big, international movies like Refresh are entertaining, a lot of the jumps and tricks are so huge that we can't even relate to them or grasp how immense they really are...so the movie becomes almost impersonal." Argues OR Alumni Fred Meissner. Simply put by Junior Andrew Sullivan: "Refresh was dope because Henrik stays ignant and T-Wall throws every double in the book."

Filmed at: Alta, Mammoth, Crested Butte, basically out west Featuring: Tom Wallisch, Henrik Harlaut, Mike Hornbeck, Liam Downey Bottom Line: Refresh goes big and doesn't go home.



Henrik Harlaut is okay with being upside-down.

How We Livin'

Stept Productions

"How We Livin' had everything people love about Stept. A great soundtrack, indie style, and a soul feel that you miss out on when watching movies like Every Day is a Saturday," said Junior Joseph Fletcher. "Despite its low budget, Stept brings with it a list of youngsters that will own the game in a few years no doubt." How We Livin' is certainly the most ghetto of all the movies to grace our presence this year, perhaps only beat by So Far So Hood. There is minimal talking; the style of the film is shot after shot put to music. "It's awesome to see a pro who came from the same area you reside in hit a handrail on a stair set you've walked up and down millions of times, or see an east coast skier find an awesome little back country line right off of an interstate," said Junior Nick Brown. "Movies and companies like this justify the free in free skiing." Filmed at: Plymouth State, Waterville Valley Featuring: Nick Martini, Alex Martini, Cam Riley, Shea Flynn Bottom Line: All great shots set to some great beats.

